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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Reliable Source'—Peace Talks To Convene in U.S. *[AFP]* 1
Arab League Hits 'Israeli War Crimes' in Lebanon *[MENA]* 1
Damascus Declaration Foreign Ministers Meet 1
Egyptian Official on Preparations *[MENA]* 1
Musa on Importance of Meeting *[MENA]* 1
GCC Secretary General Arrives *[MENA]* 2
Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives *[MENA]* 2
Syrian Foreign Minister, Others Arrive *[MENA]* 2
Foreign Ministers Meet Mubarak *[MENA]* 2
Further on al-Shar'-Mubarak Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 3
Musa Opens Damascus Declaration Meeting *[MENA]* 3
Meeting Ends; Joint Statement Issued *[MENA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi—Washington Not 'Neutral' Talks Venue *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Nov]* 4
'Ashrawi—Next Phase of Talks To Be 'Difficult' *[Amman TV]* 5
Arabs Agree To No Separate Accords With Israel *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 10 Nov]* 6
Al-Husayni Comments on Current Peace Prospects *[Tel Aviv TV]* 6
'Ashrawi Discusses 'Next Stage' of Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 7
Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Hold East Jerusalem Briefing *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 8
Continued Settlements 'Inconceivable' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 9
DFLP To Take Part in Talks if Delegation Changes *[London International]* 9
Sha'th Denies Statement on Halting Intifadah *[Amman AL-RA'Y 10 Nov]* 9
PNC Speaker—Failure of Talks Could Lead to War *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 11 Nov]* 10
Qaddumi: PLO Resumes 'Full, Normal' Ties With Syria *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 10 Nov]* 11
'Detente' in Palestinian-Saudi Relations Expected *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 11 Nov]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Islamic Front To Take Part in 26 Dec Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 12
President Receives Malian Foreign Minister *[APS]* 12
Police Use Tear Gas Against Mostaganem Students *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Treasury Official Discusses Foreign Debt *[APS]* 12

Egypt

Reports on Visit by Yasir 'Arafat 12
Mahmud 'Abbas Prepares Visit *[MENA]* 12
Musa Greets 'Arafat on Arrival *[MENA]* 13
Mubarak Receives PLO Chairman *[MENA]* 13
Musa on 'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting *[MENA]* 13
Marked by 'Frankness and Openness' *[MENA]* 13
Date Set for Resumption of Peace Talks *[MENA]* 13
Musa, Oppositionist on Talks With Shamir *[AL-AHALI 6 Nov]* 13
'Extreme Concern' Over Israeli Raids in Lebanon *[MENA]* 15

Interior Ministry To Tighten Border Security *[AFP]* 15
Iran 'No Less Dangerous' Than Saddam *[MENA]* 15

Sudan

SPLM Spokesman Says al-Bashir Blocks Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Nov]* 15
U.S. Criticizes Asylum for 'Rejectionist' Groups *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Nov]* 16
'Secret Document' Reveals Islamic Training Camps *[MENA]* 16
State Names Members of Foreign Affairs Committee *[SUNA]* 17
Al-Bashir Dismisses Culture Minister *[SUNA]* 17
'Arafat Meets Al-Bashir in Khartoum *[SUNA]* 17
Al-Bashir Meets With Libyan Trade Official *[Omdurman Radio]* 17
Integration Official Discusses Ties With Libya *[SUNA]* 18
Official Holds Talks With Iraqi Ambassador *[SUNA]* 18

Western Sahara

Polisario: Morocco Raising 'Obstacles' to Peace *[Algiers Radio]* 18

IRAQ

Sources—Signs of Saddam 'Family Power Struggle' *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 19
Further on 'Family Differences' *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 19
Saddam, Ministers Discuss Reconstruction Efforts *[INA]* 19
Saddam Speech to Officials on Media Tasks *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Democratic Party of Kurdistan Supports Saddam *[AL-QADISIYAH 9 Nov]* 21
Government, Opposition-Kurds Clash in Two Areas 21
Continued Shelling in South *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 21
Government Forces Advance in North *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 22
Over 18,000 Regime Forces Near Ibril *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 22
Clash Reported Outside Irbil *[Amman TV]* 23
Regime's Advance on Irbil Obstructed *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 23
Spokesman—Kurdish Forces on Alert *[AFP]* 23
Government Spokesman Denies Offensive *[INA]* 23
Damascus Declaration Nations' Meeting Viewed *[Baghdad Radio]* 24

ISRAEL

Knesset Draft Resolution on 'Inseparable' Golan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Shamir To Meet Bush on Visit to U.S. Next Week *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Shamir Briefs Cabinet on Talks, Other Issues 25
On Venue for Direct Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Further on Bilateral Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Drop in Territories' Unrest Noted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
'Parallel Trend' Inside Green Line *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
PLO Source, Shamir Comment on Continued Talks *[HA'ARETZ 11 Nov]* 26
Levi on Alternate Talks Venues, Syrian Actions *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
Water Resources Not Included in Talks With Arabs *[HA'ARETZ 12 Nov]* 27
Arens Returns After 4-Day Secret Mission *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
Four 'Terrorists' Killed in Western Negev Clash *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
IDF Spokesman Confirms Deaths *[AFP]* 28
Complaint Lodged With Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
IDF To Restrict Access to Jericho, Delegation *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
'Thousands' Greet Palestinian Delegates *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Sharon Urges al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Deportation *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
U.S. Said To Encourage Palestinian 'Euphoria' *[DAVAR 11 Nov]* 29
Largest-Ever Poll Shows Most Favor Land Return *[TEL AVIV 8 Nov]* 30
Hamas Proposes 'Quiet Dialogue' With PLO *[Jerusalem TV]* 31
South Africa's De Klerk, Botha Begin Visit 31
De Klerk Arrives, Levi Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
De Klerk Speaks at Arrival Ceremony *[Johannesburg SAPA]* 32

Meets Peres; Attends Dinner *[Johannesburg SAPA]* 32
Meets Herzog; Speaks at Reception *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Economic Agreement Signed *[HA'ARETZ 11 Nov]* 33
De Klerk, Botha View Agreement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
De Klerk Meets Shamir 11 Nov *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Shamir, De Klerk Reject Intervention *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Pik Botha Meets Bethlehem Mayor *[Umtata Radio]* 35
Military Denies Soldier Held by Hizballah *[HA'ARETZ 10 Nov]* 35
IDF, Hizballah Activities in Southern Lebanon 35
IDF Denies Planes Bombed Orphanage *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Hizballah-Planted Bombs Detonated *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
SLA Continues Shelling *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Three More Iranians Apprehended Crossing Border *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Jordanians Return Youths Who Crossed Border *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Indian Supply of Nuclear Reactor to Iran Viewed 36
'Sources' Express 'Serious Fear' *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 11 Nov]* 36
Clarification Sought From India *[HA'ARETZ 12 Nov]* 36
Levi on Next Phase of Talks, Consulates in USSR *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
High-Ranking PRC Delegation Due To Visit *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 10 Nov]* 36

JORDAN

Al-Masri on Bilateral, Multilateral Talks *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 37
AFP Reports Additional Remarks 38

LEBANON

Officials, Others React to University Blast 39
Interior Minister *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Defense Minister *[Beirut Radio]* 39
More 'Setbacks' Expected *[RFL]* 39
Lebanese Forces *[VOL]* 40
Hizballah Denies Responsibility *[RFL]* 40
'Islamic Source' Denies Involvement *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
Hizballah Leader: U.S. 'Agents' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
Visiting Iranian Official *[IRNA]* 41
PLO Office in Beirut To Reopen 'Soon' *[RFL]* 41
Hizballah Group To Try Captured Israeli Soldier *[VOL]* 41
Reports on Continued Israeli Shelling of South 41
Firing Continues 8 Nov *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Artillery Fire Reported 9 Nov *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Report on 10 Nov Incidents *[VOM]* 41
Six Wounded 11 Nov *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Other Activity Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 41
French Envoy Expects Christmas Hostage Release *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Iran's Khonsari Visits Sidon, Speaks on Hostages *[IRNA]* 42
Iranian Envoy Details Concerns To Karami *[RFL]* 42
Paper Reports Plan To Abduct Hostage-Takers *[AL-SHIRA' 11 Nov]* 42
Buwayz on Madrid Conference, Bilateral Talks *[RFL]* 43

SYRIA

Talks With PLO's 'Arafat, Qaddumi Reported 44
Al-Asad, 'Arafat Discuss Madrid *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Qaddumi Arrival Statement *[SANA]* 44
'Identical' Views Reported *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Khaddam, Qaddumi Confer *[Damascus Radio]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Attack Jalalabad 8 Nov *[Islamabad Radio]* 45
Mojahedin Kill 50 Soldiers in Herat Province *[AFP]* 45
Unease in Government Over Soviet-Mojahedin Talks *[AFP]* 45
Supporters Seek Ex-King's Return to Kabul *[AFP]* 46

Pakistan

President Rules Out National Government *[Islamabad Radio]* 47
Jamiyat-i-Islami Party To Quit Government Alliance *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Minister Notes Nuclear Program's Peaceful Nature *[Islamabad Radio]* 47
Minister Reminds India of UN Kashmir Resolutions *[Islamabad Radio]* 48
Sharif Advocates Pressure on India *[Islamabad Radio]* 48
Sharif Calls for Atmosphere of Regional Trust *[Islamabad Radio]* 48
Iranian Education Minister Arrives for Talks 49
Meets With Counterpart *[IRNA]* 49
Conveys Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message *[IRNA]* 49
Sharif Welcomes Mediation Offer *[Islamabad Radio]* 49

Sri Lanka

Tigers Set Basis for New Peace Talks *[AFP]* 49
President Thanks SAARC States for Attending Talks *[Colombo Radio]* 50
President Holds Talks With Pakistani Official *[Colombo Radio]* 50

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Reliable Source'—Peace Talks To Convene in U.S.

NC0811211391 Paris AFP in English 2036 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Amman, Nov 8 (AFP)—The Middle East peace conference talks will resume in Washington on November 22, a reliable source said here Friday.

These bilateral talks, which began Sunday in Madrid, had been suspended because of differences between Israel and Arab delegations over the venue for the next round of negotiations.

Israel called for the bilateral talks to be held in various Middle East capitals, while Arab negotiators sought a neutral site outside of the region.

The Middle East peace conference, co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union, opened on October 30 in the Spanish capital.

The first round of face-to-face talks were then held Sunday, involving separate meetings between Israel and delegations from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian team.

Washington had been one of the compromise venues mentioned over the past week as efforts were made to continue the historic process.

Cyprus and Turkey also announced that they would be willing to host the talks.

Arab League Hits 'Israeli War Crimes' in Lebanon

NC1011140691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1309 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—The Arab League General Secretariat strongly condemned the continued Israeli war crimes against peaceable citizens in southern Lebanon and the Israeli air raids against Palestinian children and elderly.

In a statement issued today, the secretariat said that at a time when the world is turning its attention to the establishment of a just and comprehensive Middle East peace and while the Arab countries are holding out olive branches as an expression of that peace in a region that has suffered too much war, Israel persists in conducting campaigns against peaceable people in southern Lebanon and raining deadly missiles on Palestinian camps.

The Arab League General Secretariat condemned the inhuman Israeli acts that violate law and convention, noting that these acts demonstrate hostile intentions and coincide with the current regional peace efforts. This, the statement said, proves that Israel does not want the peace process to continue; rather, it wants to ruin the chance for peace and ignore world opinion.

The Arab League urged Arab countries, the world, and members of the UN Security Council to immediately intervene to stop these acts and compel Israel to comply with international resolutions.

The secretariat emphasized that the Arab countries adhere to the peace process and are determined to achieve peace without abandoning one inch of occupied Arab territory.

Damascus Declaration Foreign Ministers Meet

Egyptian Official on Preparations

NC0911214391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Experts from the Damascus Declaration countries will resume their meetings tomorrow morning to prepare for the meetings of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers slated for 11 November.

Ibrahim 'Awf, Egyptian assistant foreign minister and chairman of the experts meeting, stated this evening that the meetings of the foreign ministers of the eight countries will play an important role in backing the coming Middle East peace talks through consultations and exchange of views. He denied that the security agreements signed by some Gulf countries conflict with the charter of the Damascus Declaration. He stressed that each country, proceeding from its sovereignty and full freedom, has the right to conclude the security agreements it deems appropriate. He added that these agreements will consolidate the collective Arab action as well. He pointed out that any Arab country that accepts the charter of the Damascus Declaration may join it.

'Awf concluded by saying that Egypt submitted to the experts meeting a number of working papers concerning political, security, economic, cultural, and information coordination among the eight member states.

Musa on Importance of Meeting

NC1011145091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatory countries, which will begin on 11 November, is important for coordinating and implementing the points included in the declaration. He said that the signatories have not agreed on specific programs, but the general policy is to discuss any possible agreements they might make.

'Amr Musa pointed out that there will be other meetings in the future. He said that the Damascus Declaration provides an opportunity for discussion among the member states on implementing projects and programs after such programs are formulated.

On the Middle East bilateral peace talks, he said that consultations are continuing to set a date and a venue for the coming round of negotiations which is supposed to be held sometime during the third week of November. He said that the multilateral talks will follow the bilateral talks.

'Amr Musa stated that all the Damascus Declaration member states support the peace negotiations and are united in their support for the peace conference.

GCC Secretary General Arrives

NC0911205891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2003 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit that will last a few days. During the visit, Bisharah will take part in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries that will open in Cairo 11 November.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives

NC1011084291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0753 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo this morning to participate in the meetings of foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatory countries, due to open in Cairo tomorrow, Monday.

Foreign Minister Musa was on hand at the airport to receive Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Syrian Foreign Minister, Others Arrive

NC1011164291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' arrived in Cairo this evening to attend the meeting of foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries.

Mr. al-Shar' made a statement saying that the meeting provides an opportunity to exchange viewpoints regarding topics of interest to Arab countries and implementation of the principles and goals of the Damascus Declaration, to discuss the next stages of the peace conference and the results of its first stage, exchange opinions, and coordinate as needed to continue the peace march in the coming stage.

Al-Shar' expects there will be political and media support for the Arab negotiators through direct coordination. He affirmed that the peace march is of interest to all Arab countries.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1555 GMT reports the following ministers' arrival in Cairo for the meeting: Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Mr. Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir, Qatari foreign minister; and Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, minister of state for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates]

Foreign Ministers Meet Mubarak

NC1111103291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received the following foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatory countries at the presidential office this morning: Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al- Faysal; Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Salim Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah; Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak al-Khatir; Hamdan Bin-Zayid, United Arab Emirates minister of state for foreign affairs; Yusuf Bin- 'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs; and Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah. Egypt's own foreign minister, 'Amr Usa, also participated in the meeting.

Following the meeting, Syria Foreign Minister al-Shar' expressed the foreign ministers' satisfaction with the meeting. He said that the discussions dealt with the possibility of implementing the Damascus Declaration through the exchange of views, consultations, and formulation of ideas. Following that, he said, studies will be carried out on the agreements reached in preparation for final implementation. We know, he said, that the Damascus Declaration has been ratified by all the eight signatory countries. However, we will add some amendments requested by some Arab states. This is an important step, Al-Shar' noted, and we expect ideas about the declaration's goals to materialize into executive protocols very soon.

Al-Shar' was asked if agreements will be concluded at today's foreign ministers' meeting. He replied: I do not think so. Draft agreements will be drawn up at this meeting, however. We have not had any time to do that due to our preoccupation with the peace process and participation in the Madrid peace conference.

A reporter asked Al-Shar' if any new ideas have been proposed, to which he answered: No. However, there are several interpretations on a number of old points. Views will be exchanged on these issues so we can take a united stand, he said.

The Syrian minister was questioned about the proposal by some Gulf countries to include Iran in Gulf security arrangements and whether he has seen the same trend among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Iran is a special neighboring country for the Gulf countries, he responded, adding it is concerned with Gulf security. We are all interested in cooperation and good relations between all Arab countries and Iran.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah expressed the eight foreign ministers' pleasure at meeting President Mubarak today, saying: We exchanged views with his excellency the president on a number of important issues that concern cooperation within the framework of the Damascus Declaration. We also discussed the current developments in the peace conference. I would like to express our appreciation for his excellency the president's directives and views, he said. Al Khalifah said the meeting with the president would enrich today's meeting on cooperation and coordination among the eight signatory countries. We hope, he continued, that this process will continue along the road of cooperation and cohesiveness among Arabs in order to embark on a new phase of fruitful and constructive cooperation.

In reply to a question on today's agenda, the Bahraini foreign minister said the only thing on the agenda is the exchange of views on how to best implement the Damascus Declaration.

He was asked whether there are any specific ideas, to which he responded: We can talk about these ideas after holding the meeting and exchanging views. I have great hopes that this meeting will consolidate this cooperation.

The Bahraini foreign minister replied to a question about Iran's role by saying: Today we are talking about cooperation among the Arab countries. Arab depth is the basis for pan-Arab security and this is the goal of the Damascus Declaration.

Further on al-Shar'-Mubarak Meeting

JN1111180791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Cairo—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received the foreign ministers of the Damascus declaration states. Discussions revolved around regional developments and issues pertaining to the principles and objectives of the Damascus declaration. The conferees emphasized coordination among these states and the importance of maintaining a unified Arab position during the peace process.

Afterward, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with President Husni Mubarak. Discussions revolved around relations between the two fraternal countries, and the regional situation in light of the initial results of the Madrid peace conference. It was agreed to continue contacts and consultations between the leaders of the two countries.

After his meeting with Mubarak today, Faruq al-Shar' made statements in which he expressed his expectation that the ideas concerning the objectives of the Damascus declaration will be developed into executive protocols in the near future. Al-Shar' said that during today's foreign ministers' meeting, draft agreements concerning the Damascus declaration will be laid down. He said there was no time for drafting such agreements beforehand because of the preoccupation with the peace process and participation in the Madrid conference.

Asked whether new ideas have been proposed regarding the declaration, al-Shar' indicated that there are various interpretations regarding a number of points. He said consultations will be held to adopt a unified stand on such points.

Responding to a question concerning the proposal by some Gulf states that Iran be included in the Gulf security arrangements, al-Shar' said that Iran is a neighborly country, especially for the Gulf states, and is interested in Gulf security. As for cooperation and good-neighborliness between all Arab states and Iran, this is an issue that interests all of us.

Al-Shar' expressed the satisfaction of the Damascus declaration foreign ministers over their meeting with President Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Musa Opens Damascus Declaration Meeting

NC1111104891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration—representing Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and the Sultanate of Oman—began their meetings this morning.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa opened the meeting by welcoming the foreign ministers to the fifth session, saying: Our meeting at this important stage through which our countries and peoples are going is of particular importance. This session is also unique because it marks the start of the implementation of the Damascus Declaration.

This session has been preceded by preparatory work with experts from member countries, he noted, adding: We will discuss, study, and consult on this important stage, the stage of implementation. We were lucky to start this day of action with a meeting with President Husni Mubarak where the long discussion dealt with the Damascus Declaration process and the peace process, he noted. These two issues will top this session's agenda, Musa concluded.

The open session ended and the foreign ministers began their closed session following Musa's speech. [passage omitted]

Meeting Ends; Joint Statement Issued

NC1111173291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Concluding their meetings in Cairo this evening, foreign ministers of the eight Damascus Declaration countries expressed their satisfaction with the first stage of the Madrid peace conference.

They reaffirmed the constant Arab stands regarding solving the Palestine question and the Middle East crisis as manifested by resolutions of international legitimacy, foremost of which are Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the principle of land for peace.

In a joint statement, the eight ministers agreed that Israel's continued expansion and building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories contradict the letter and spirit of all UN resolutions.

They condemned Israel's declaration, after peace negotiations in Madrid had started, that it will build a new settlement in the occupied Arab Golan Heights. They described this measure as "defiance" of international legitimacy, the peace process, and the new world order.

The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries reaffirmed their firm and permanent support for the Palestinian struggle to retrieve all inalienable national rights, including the right to self-determination.

The foreign ministers of the eight countries—Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates—affirmed in their joint statement the need to implement Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Regarding the results of the preparatory meetings of experts from the Damascus Declaration countries held in Cairo over the past two days, the joint statement noted that the foreign ministers of the eight countries agreed in their fifth periodic session today to refer the experts' proposals to their respective governments to study and discuss them.

The statement said discussions will also take place regarding any other ideas presented by the Damascus Declaration countries during the coming stage to prepare for the sixth ministerial round. During that round, they will study relevant formulations proposed by the eight countries.

It pointed out that the fifth periodic meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries convened to implement what was agreed upon in their fourth meeting in Kuwait 15- 16 July.

The statement clarified that the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries reviewed during their fifth meeting in Cairo today the current Arab situation and affirmed their determination to adhere to Arab solidarity and joint action.

In this regard, they expressed support for the role of all institutions for joint Arab action, foremost of which is the Arab League.

They also affirmed their support for efforts by the Kuwaiti Government to release Kuwaiti prisoners held in Iraq. The eight ministers expressed their hopes that the Iraqi Government will adhere to the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis so the sufferings of both the fraternal Kuwaiti and Iraqi peoples can be alleviated.

The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries affirmed their full commitment to preserve Iraq's regional unity and sovereignty over all its territories.

In their joint meeting, the eight ministers congratulated fraternal Kuwait—government and people—for its success in extinguishing the oil well fires started by the Iraqi regime.

Regarding Islamic action, the joint statement clarified that during their meeting today the eight ministers discussed the subjects to be covered during the Islamic summit to be held soon in Dakar.

Concluding their joint statement, the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries expressed their gratitude to President Husni Mubarak for receiving them today and sharing his views on the current Arab situation and international changes, and their current and future effect on the Arab countries and how to best use these positive changes to maintain pan-Arab security and realize comprehensive Arab growth.

The eight ministers welcomed the call made by the Qatari foreign minister to host the sixth round of the meetings of the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers in Doha during the second half of April next year.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi—Washington Not 'Neutral' Talks Venue

JN1011074791 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Nov 91 pp 1,5

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Nur al-Sati]

[Text] Amman—The Palestinian negotiators and advisors who attended last week's Middle East peace conference in Madrid in a joint delegation with Jordan will leave for the West Bank Sunday after holding three days of talks in the Kingdom.

The team arrived in Amman Wednesday from Madrid along with the Jordanian negotiators and advisors. During its stay in Jordan, the Palestinian delegation held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of Jordanian officials.

In a press conference Saturday, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, member of the Palestinian "guidance committee," told reporters: "We have asked for assurance from the co-sponsors of the peace conference that the Palestinian delegates be treated as a whole team with diplomatic status" upon entering the occupied territories and that there would be no attempt to harass the delegation.

"We will not accept any interference and we will not make any contacts with the Israeli authorities," Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

There wou'd be representatives of the co-sponsors at the bridge, she said. "I hope this will bring Israel to deal with us equity [as published], and if Israel violates our freedoms, we will protest."

The Palestinian delegation is also hoping to be met by "our own people," she said.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the delegation had done its best in Madrid to do well with what was entrusted to them, especially "the rights of Palestinians and the Palestinian identity."

"The delegation spoke with strength, belief and trust of people," she said.

The time and venue for the next round of bilateral talks will be announced by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Nov. 17, Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

So far there is a deadlock on the venue of the talks. Palestinians insist the talks should be in Madrid. Israel insists the bilaterals should be held in the Middle East.

"Washington (as a venue) has not been decided yet," Dr. 'Ashrawi said. "We do not consider Washington a neutral place because of the strong Israeli lobby there and because the United States Congress is always supportive of the Israelis."

She noted that the U.S. had not resumed its suspended dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), although the Soviet Union has renewed its official relations with Israel. "If the U.S. wants the conference to be held in Washington, then they should partially renew relations with the PLO or at least acknowledge the PLO," Dr. 'Ashrawi said.

The U.S. dialogue with the PLO was officially opened in January 1990 after the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to exist and renunciation of terrorism. But it was suspended 18 months later when PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat refused to denounce a raid on Tel Aviv by the Palestine Liberation Front.

Speaking of the letters of assurances from the United States to the Palestinians, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: "There is a clear American intention which aims at ending occupation, especially that of Jerusalem."

On the question of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation she said: "The Palestinian understanding of a confederation is one among independent countries that would enter a confederacy with its own will." The Palestine National Council (PNC) has endorsed such a confederation between Jordan and Palestine, she noted.

But Dr. 'Ashrawi pointed out that the delegation was not going according to all the items of the letter of assurances "because it is not our agenda. The letter of assurance does not bind us to do anything against our will." She said. "It expresses the formal political American stand and it binds the U.S. with it and not the Palestinian side."

"We went to the peace conference saying that international legality binds us to Resolutions 242 and 338. We are seeking to influence the formal American stand," Dr. 'Ashrawi said. "When we accepted invitations to the conference, we made it clear that we do not reject or oppose decisions made by the PNC."

Nayif Hawatimah of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Saturday criticised the makeup of the Palestinian peace delegation.

"The Palestinian delegation is consistent with the American formula and Israeli terms," and it neglects a true representation of all the Palestinian people" Mr. Hawatimah said.

Dr. 'Ashrawi, faced with this question at the press conference, said: "I will not go into the formulation of the delegation but we welcome any group that would like to join because the more wider the political base the stronger we are and every phase has its own need. That need should correspond with the Palestinian will."

'Ashrawi—Next Phase of Talks To Be 'Difficult'

JN0911191991 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Report by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, political affairs correspondent]

[Excerpts] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi has praised the support of the Jordanian people and government, which enabled the Palestinian side to the joint delegation to play its role. She stressed that His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation directly explained the features of the path ahead and facilitated the mission of the joint deleagtion. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question on the venue and date for the resumption of direct talks, Dr' 'Ashrawi said:

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] The decision is to continue direct talks. The date of the direct talks is expected to be after 20 November, perhaps between 22 and 24 November. However, Baker declared that he will return to Washington on 17 November, then he will announce the venue. Evidently, the bilateral talks faced a deadlock regarding the venue. We insist on Madrid, the Israelis insist on Israel or any place in the region. Therefore, the cosponsors had to intervene. As it is known, when a deadlock or impasse [preceding three words in English] is reached, the cosponsors are asked to intervene and to give a third solution. However, our principled stand is still based on the need that the negotiations not be held in any venue that would negatively affect the outcome and the negotiations and must not be used to consecrate

or legitimize the Israeli occupation or to legitimize Israel's occupation or annexation of Jerusalem. [end recording]

Responding to a question on reports indicating that there will be a change in the members of the Palestinian side to the joint delegation, Dr. 'Ashrawi said that the next phase will be difficult and a stage of political confrontation during which information, facts, and files must be dealt with, noting that this would require more precision and technicality.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] Now we will embark on the phase of specialized skills. Therefore, the numbers must be reduced, because there will be no new conference, but direct talks and negotiations. We believe that the numbers will be reduced. Emphasis will put on the specific requirements of these talks. [end recording]

Arabs Agree To No Separate Accords With Israel

JN1111144891 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 10 Nov 91 pp 1, 17

[Report by Khalil Khurmah from Amman]

[Excerpt] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, has told AL-BAYAN that the Arab parties have reached an agreement which categorically prohibits any separate agreements with Israel.

'Ashrawi stressed that the Palestinian side has firm positions and non-negotiable constants in this regard, and that the talks will deal with how to realize these constants.

The Palestinian spokeswoman explained that these constants emphasize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil, the establishment of their state with Jerusalem as its capital, and the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation.

'Ashrawi indicated that the Palestinian negotiating team is fully empowered to run the negotiations in this direction without relinquishing any of those constants.

She said that the bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations will resume on 22 November in Washington. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Comments on Current Peace Prospects

TA1011161691 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Studio interview with Faysal al-Husayni by Dan Margalit—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Good evening, Faysal al-Husayni. You returned today with the Palestinian delegation and were received very warmly by large throngs in Jericho.

[Al-Husayni] Good evening.

[Margalit] Does a case like the stabbing of the old woman in Zelafon today bother you or interfere with the peace efforts?

[Al-Husayni] Of course such an incident, involving an innocent woman, cannot in any way help the cause of peace. I think that any act of killing or hostility these days does nothing at all to further the peace process, which we all hope will lead us to the goal of all the nations for a new Middle East.

[Margalit] They say that Jericho has not seen such a demonstration since the walls came tumbling down 3,500 years ago. What effect does it have on you, seeing so many Palestinian Arabs cheering for you?

[Al-Husayni] Look, it came as no surprise to us. We know our people, we know the intifadah, and we realize that our nation, which started the intifadah and used the stone, does not hate the Israelis. Rather, our nation does not want the occupation and wants to end it. Now, as you have seen, when the peace process began, instead of the stone you see the olive branch.

[Margalit] Do you intend to take over from the Civil Administration—totally or partly? Is that why you have now established a new political body headed by Sari Nusaybah, which consists of many committees in the various cities in the territories?

[Al-Husayni] Look, every stage already involves planning for the next one. We are moving to a distinctly political stage, which requires a clear political plan as well.

[Margalit] What will these committees do? Will they be semigovernmental in nature? Will they fulfill the same role as the Jewish Agency prior to the establishment of the State of Israel?

[Al-Husayni] Look, this is the beginning. They do not cover all the political branches, but in the future the planning will be more sophisticated, and you will see that we have two goals: first to help the peace, and second to help establish a Palestinian government that will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

[Margalit] Everyone wants peace, and I think that many people were also glad to see you Palestinians euphoric—perhaps others are not—and my question is: Is the euphoria in which you Palestinians are now living not dangerous, as you can expect many falls and crises?

[Al-Husayni] Look, this is a new leaf, a new era, and a new path that we must embark on. We know that the possibility of danger exists here or there, but our desire for peace is greater than all these. Nothing will stop the Palestinian people's move toward elections and peace.

[Margalit] The road to the permanent peace that everyone is talking about leads through autonomy, however. Do you accept the Israeli version of the Camp

David autonomy plan—namely autonomy for people, not territory, at the first stage—as the basis for negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] Look, these are negotiations. We have an Israeli version and also a Palestinian and another version. So what can we do about the fact that each one wants his version to materialize? For our part, we can see that this is a stage in which control is passed over from the Israeli military government to the Palestinian administration. We do not view this as autonomy but as the transfer of rule. The Israelis can view it as autonomy, but we see it only as an interim stage between the situation in which we live, which is occupation, to one in which we can be a nation with self- determination with one whole state adjacent to Israel and Jordan.

[Margalit] Who will get control over the various administrative bodies, the PLO?

[Al-Husayni] Control will be handed over to the Palestinian people. After that there will elections and the voters will elect whomever they want. If you let the Palestinians hold elections now, they will choose the PLO.

[Margalit] Are you the PLO?

[Al-Husayni] I am a Palestinian. If you want to understand what the PLO is....

[Margalit, interrupting] Let me rephrase the question: Did you meet with Yasir 'Arafat in the past two or three days in Amman?

[Al-Husayni] Is that so important? I do not think....

[Margalit, interrupting] It is interesting.

[Al-Husayni] I do not think now that it is important for someone to tell you that he belongs to the PLO or not, or whether he met with 'Arafat or not. The more important issue is whether the Palestinian people want peace, whether the man sitting opposite you is truly working for peace, and whether Yasir 'Arafat himself wants peace or not. I see that we must move beyond this business of asking: Who are you? Where are you from? Do you belong to the PLO or not? Please make peace.

[Margalit] Let us review the hurdles on the way for a moment: Why, for instance, do you not want to conduct these negotiations in Washington?

[Al-Husayni] We want these negotiations to be held in Madrid because we want them to be linked to the Madrid peace conference. We do not merely want to make peace between the Palestinians and Israel; we want real peace throughout the Middle East. We want everyone to work together.

[Margalit] I thought that you rejected Washington because the United States does not permit PLO representatives to enter.

[Al-Husayni] I do not know whether it lets them enter or not, but if the Madrid model was okay, then why go to Washington? Certainly we want to go a place that can offer all the people we believe should be there the possibility of going there.

[Margalit] It has been reported that you want immunity: Why do you need it? After all, the rules of the negotiations were stipulated in anticipation of the Madrid conference and they will remain in force. So why do you need immunity? Immunity against what?

[Al-Husayni] This will be the first time negotiations have been held between a nation under occupatio. : and the occupier. We cannot imagine that we will be able to function under occupation without immunity. How can this be done? How can I hold negotiations with the Israelis when I have my own plans, which I do not want anyone to see? Suppose I want to surprise the Israeli side during the negotiations with some paper or plan; but I am living under occupation and the police can come to my house at any moment, search it, and confiscate all these papers? In that case, I will be unable to go to the negotiations feeling equal. That is why we want immunity, so that no one will be able to....

[Margalit, interrupting] The kind of immunity every Israeli Knesset member [MK] has, for instance?

[Al-Husayni] No, I am not talking about them. Israeli MK's are a different case. We are talking about a situation of negotiations. I want us to be immune to searches and I want there to be no access to our papers and files during negotiations or when we return. I do not want anyone who comes to my house to be subject to Israeli scrutiny, and I want my telephone, my fax machine, and so on to be free so that we operate freely in the negotiations and on terms of equality. Otherwise, this cannot go on.

[Margalit] Thank you very much, Mr. al-Husayni.

[Al-Husayni] Shalom.

'Ashrawi Discusses 'Next Stage' of Peace Process

TA0911093191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid talks, in Amman by Dalya Ya'iri in Jerusalem on 9 November—recorded "with the help of Solan Communications." 'Ashrawi's remarks in English followed by Ya'iri's translation into Hebrew]

[Text] [Ya'iri] We asked Dr. 'Ashrawi to try to assess the next stage of the peace process.

['Ashrawi] Well, it's not a very predictable stage, because we have actually begun the difficult task of face-to-face negotiation. I think the immediate stage has to deal with Israel's willingness to prove that it has actually entered

into the process with genuine intentions and predisposition to peace rather than just as an exercise—though we would like to see, essentially, concrete steps to stop the settlements and the confiscation of land and to lift some of the restrictions to build sufficient feeling among the Palestinians that the peace process is something which Israel is genuinely concerned about; things that have to do with the confidence-building measures, like the release of the detainees, the return of deportees, and other measures.

[Ya'iri] We asked whether the meeting in Madrid had been an important step toward promoting the peace process.

['Ashrawi] The Palestinians, first of all, are articulating their own case and speaking on their behalf and are, in a way, being recognized as a nation among nations. And, for the first time, the world was receptive to the Palestinian message, to the case and the cause. But, at the same time, there was a tone—at least from the Palestinians—that demonstrated a genuine commitment to peace.

[Ya'iri] The Palestinian people are not speaking with one voice, we said. We hear that Islamic Jihad has declared you—the members of the delegation—wanted people because of your talks with the Israelis.

['Ashrawi] There are differences within the nationalist camp, which are understandable. The minority does not want the peace process—it is understandable—and we protect the right to differ democratically. Now, the people who are in real opposition and who are outside the nationalist camp may be more vocal in their opposition and are outside the coordination but, at the same time, there has not been a single call for violence against Palestinians, except from non-Palestinian sources outside the occupied territories.

[Ya'iri] We asked Dr. 'Ashrawi about the talks with the Jordanians, about what has been happening there, and what they have been discussing.

['Ashrawi] Well, the most important talks with the Jordanians have to deal with coordination, with working out joint strategies and political positions, and working out also the modalities and technicalities of this structure of having a joint delegation that contains two separate and distinct national delegations.

[Ya'iri] We asked: Do you not feel that the Jordanians are exploiting you, the Palestinians, for their own needs?

['Ashrawi] We do not feel there is any attempt at hegemony or at exploitation or to use us. On the contrary, we feel that there is a recognition of mutual needs based on mutual respect and that there is a distinct, special relationship between the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

[Ya'iri] What will be your message tomorrow, when you return to Israel, we asked Dr. 'Ashrawi.

['Ashrawi] This is the time for political struggle, not for military conflict. To the Israelis I would say in all sincerity that there is a unique opportunity to make peace, that we need a majority in Israel to stand up and to demonstrate their willingness to pursue a genuine peace through concrete action, that the politics of domination and disequilibrium are no longer viable or possible, that we are two peoples. We should speak to each other as equals, not as occupier and occupied.

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Hold East Jerusalem Briefing

TA1111115191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] We were in Madrid and had no part in the election of the members of the political committees, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said in reaction to the committees announced yesterday by Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. Appearing in a news conference, Dr. 'Ashrawi added that she was disappointed by the reaction of Israelis to the peace demonstrations in the territories. Our correspondent Galya Marom reports:

[Begin recording] [Marom] Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi called an orderly news conference this morning to report on the negotiations in Madrid and the peace process and to reply to journalists' questions, most of which dealt with the establishment of the political committees announced yesterday by Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. The organizers of the news conference stated a priori that the political questions would be answered by Faysal al-Husayni. However, he left the hall in the middle of the news conference and left to 'Ashrawi to answer them.

['Ashrawi, in English] Well, for these questions, I think Mr. al-Husayni wanted to answer them. We were in Madrid, we did not take part in the direct choice of these committees, and I think the question should be directed as well.

[Marom translates the above and continues] Many of the questions on this issue triggered quiet consultations between al- Husayni and 'Ashrawi. In any event, al-Husayni said, we hope that in the future other people will join the committees.

'Ashrawi added that she was disappointed by the reaction of the Israeli people to the olive branches waved by the Palestinians and the peace demonstrations staged by them. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 11 November adds that in the news conference "Hanan 'Ashrawi said that continued settlement harms the peace process, and the bilateral talks will therefore not begin before settlement stops. She emphasized that the Arab delegations agreed to allow the Palestinians to reach an agreement with Israel on the interim period in the territories since they understood that an end should first be put to occupation." Also, "Faysal al-Husayni announced that joining the political committees which have recently been set up in the territories will be

members from other groups in the territories, in addition to members of the mainstream group which supports the peace process."]

Continued Settlements 'Inconceivable'

TA1111123691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The sobering-up stage began in the territories this morning. The emotional welcome accorded the delegation members yesterday gave way to pure logic. In a first news conference in East Jerusalem after the delegation's return, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi stressed it is inconceivable to have continued settlement alongside bilateral negotiations. According to her, continued settlement harms the basis of the negotiations since it is aimed at establishing Israel's sovereignty over the areas which are subject to negotiations. We are at the outset of a long struggle, Dr. 'Ashrawi said, and the residents of the territories are well aware of this.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in English] I think that this has been made clear by the people who came to receive us, even by many people who were initially skeptical, who understood that this is not a case of instant gratification, nor is it a case of preprepared agreements done in secret, but this is really the beginning of a long political struggle. [end recording]

In making an aside during the news conference Faysal al-Husayni in fact invited questions on the establishment of the new political mechanism in the territories. In his replies, al-Husayni emphasized that the political committees in this mechanism have done good work so far, but in his opinion, political elements who do not support the peace process will also join these committees in the coming days.

[Begin al-Husayni recording, in English] It is political committees which represent a political line, one of the political lines within the Palestinian people, but still, we are looking forward to have more general committees which can represent all political lines which are within the Palestinian community. [end recording]

Let me note that political committees have lately been set up in almost all towns in the territories and their members are the supporters of the organizations which sent representatives to the Madrid talks. For instance, a six-member committee, led by As'ad Saftawi who is identified with Fatah, was set up in the Gaza Strip, while journalists Ziyad Abu-Zayyad and Dr. Sari Nusaybah are members of the committee set up in East Jerusalem. Dr. Nusaybah in fact stands behind the establishment of this political mechanism and his deputy is Ahmad (Shraym), a former terrorist who had spent 21 years in Israeli jails.

DFLP To Take Part in Talks if Delegation Changes

NC0911203791 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] [Announcer] Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has announced that his front is not against the peace negotiations. However, he stipulated that the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories must stop.

In an interview with Sa'd al-Silawi, MBC correspondent in Amman, Hawatimah called for the recomposition of the Palestinian delegation to the conference.

[Al-Silawi] DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has stipulated the need for the recomposition of the Palestinian delegation as a condition for the front's participation in the peace process. In an interview with MBC Television, Hawatimah emphasized the need to fine-tune the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Hawatimah] We clearly say that we want peace and want to work and participate in the peace process, provided there is a delegation at the negotiating table that represents all Palestinian people. We think that the present composition cannot stay the same, and we will see that. This is because there is now a painful, sad, and sharp political division.

[Al-Silawi] If you participate in the peace process, will you suspend military action against Israel?

[Hawatimah] The military operations of the national resistance against the Israeli occupation forces, which are suppressing our people in the occupied homeland and our people's camps through daily raids, will continue. We are from the school that says that the operations must be against the Israeli military forces and not against civilian targets—soldiers against soldiers—because the Israeli soldiers are the ones who spill Palestinian blood in the occupied territory and kill Palestinians in Lebanon's camps. This language must be reciprocated to the extent possible through armed national resistance. [end recording]

Sha'th Denies Statement on Halting Intifadah

JN1011081291 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Nov 91 p 28

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president, has asserted that the remarks attributed to him recently by the Israeli paper HA'ARETZ, and which were cited by the British paper THE GUARDIAN and some news agencies, are false. In these remarks, he was cited as saying that the Palestinians are ready to halt the intifadah acts of violence in return for easing the oppressive Israeli measures and for a settlement freeze.

A Palestinian spokesman said that Dr. Sha'th's remarks are very clear and have been reiterated several times.

He said: We cannot pay a price for a freeze on settlement activity because it is illegal and conflicts with the basis of the peace conference; namely, land for peace and Resolution 242, which deems it impermissible to occupy others' territory by force. Peace, therefore, cannot be negotiated while Israel is usurping Palestinian territory.

The spokesman added: As for the violent militant manifestations of the intifadah, such acts cannot be halted before the liquidation of the Israeli military rule and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Palestinian territory. Then, violent confrontations will come to an end.

He stressed: As for the militant and other structural aspects of the intifadah, they constitute the basis and spirit of the independent Palestinian state. Therefore, we will continue negotiations in order to achieve our rights. The intifadah will continue and escalate to effect a full Israeli withdrawal and until the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital is established.

PNC Speaker—Failure of Talks Could Lead to War

JN1111102491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Nov 91 pp 1, 14

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] His eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stressed that the Palestinian leadership has not decided to stop the armed struggle. We are waging a legitimate struggle that is acknowledged by international charters and norms, he added. However, he said: We are now giving peace a political chance.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, he cautioned that failure at the peace conference would lead to a disastrous war, as long as the Israeli Government insists on its intransigence and arrogance. He explained that disregard for the rights of the Palestinian people on the part of the U.S. Administration and the international community would spark off war.

Al-Sa'ih said: We will continue to defend our rights. No Palestinian can put his gun aside. We will pursue a defensive course, not an offensive one, as long as the Zionist enemy remains on our land.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih noted that the position of the Arab countries during the Gulf war was one of the reasons that had pushed the PLO to accept the peace conference. He explained that if one Arab country had refused to go to the conference, we would have stood by its side. However, he said: All Arabs agreed to go to the conference. We could not refuse to take part, because we did not want our case to be discussed in our absence.

He expressed his confidence in the Arab countries taking part in the conference and in their absolute support for the Palestine question. He said: We had hoped for an international conference; however, there was a consensus on a regional one. He indicated that if the PLO had found any course other than that of a regional conference, it would have accepted it. However, we took part in the Madrid conference with our strength, people, and Arab brothers.

Replying to a question, he said that the negotiating Palestinian delegation had enjoyed the confidence of the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people within and outside of the occupied territories.

The PNC speaker demanded that the United States take positive steps in the second stage of the negotiations by pressuring Israel and supporting Palestinian and Arab rights in order to secure the bases for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He accused the Israeli news media of obliterating the name of the PLO during the Madrid conference. However, he stated: The PLO lives in the hearts of Palestinian people within and outside the occupied territories. The outcome of elections for the chambers of commerce in the occupied West Bank are indicative of this.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih cautioned the Israeli Government against continued violations of Palestinian rights, which would push the PLO to pursue other paths to restore these rights. He explained that the United States cannot continue to support Israel against the legitimate Palestinian rights.

He affirmed that the Palestinian leadership is committed to peace because it wants to be free to build the Palestinian state away from struggle and fighting. He explained: The peace we accept is one that restores our rights guaranteeing the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The PNC speaker called on the international community to stop Jewish emigration and Israeli settlement, both of which push away the chances for establishing peace. Moreover, the escalating Jewish presence on Palestinian land increases the likelihood of the expulsion of Palestinians from their land.

He said that if the Israeli Government thinks that we want peace at any price, meaning surrender to the United States, then it is dreaming and must wake up from its illusions.

In response to a final question, the PNC speaker said: The United States must now prove its credibility by implementing international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions. He indicated that if the U.S. Administration wants to do this, then it must stop its support of Israel.

Qaddumi: PLO Resumes 'Full, Normal' Ties With Syria

JN1011073491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Nov 91 pp 1,5

[Excerpt] Damascus (Agencies)—Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) foreign affairs chief Faruq Qaddumi said Saturday the PLO was resuming full normal ties with Syria following years of animosity.

Mr. Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, told reporters the two sides were now working to strengthen their relations.

Mr. Qaddumi told reporters while leaving his hotel for talks with Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam:

"We said from the start that the aim of these visits was to restore ties to normal. This had been achieved."

Mr. Qaddumi also said the PLO and Syria had agreed the third stage of the Middle East peace process should not start until bilateral talks bring tangible results.

Speaking to reporters after talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', Mr. Qaddumi said they discussed their common stand at the peace talks.

"We discussed the national conception of the Arab-Israeli conflict.... details of joint Palestinian-Syrian future steps and the adoption of common understanding on every issue at the conference and outside...," he said.

In the bilateral talks, the main Arab delegations face Israel separately on the central questions—peace and borders. The third stage consists of multilateral talks on broader secondary issues such as arms control and water rights.

On the timing of the multilateral talks Mr. Qaddumi said: "The Palestinian-Syrian agreement is that when a tangible achievement is made in the bilateral talks we go to the multilaterals...

"Before achieving that we cannot go, because the main issue is the Palestinian cause and there should be progress on this issue before anything else."

The PLO was not represented at the conference but it had a backseat role in advising Palestinians from the occupied territories who took part alongside Jordanian delegates. [passage omitted]

'Detente' in Palestinian-Saudi Relations Expected

JN1111073791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Nov 91 pp 1, 16

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Text] Palestinian sources have told AL-DUSTUR that a detente in Palestinian-Saudi relations is expected within the next few days. A member of the Palestinian delegation who took part in the Madrid conference said that meetings held between the Palestinian delegation led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, the Saudi ambassador in Washington and a member of his country's delegation to the peace conference, were positive and useful. The Palestinian delegation member also noted that Prince Bandar had stressed his country's support for the Palestine question to achieve Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and establish a Palestinian state.

This delegation member stated that Prince Bandar had informed the Palestinian delegation that Saudi Arabia will continue its endeavors and support for the Palestine question with all means available.

The source said that normalization of Syrian-Palestinian relations will have a noticeable effect on the development of Palestinian-Saudi relations, especially since Saudi Arabia has recently extended aid to the Palestinian people equivalent to $300 million.

The Palestinian delegation member noted in conclusion that holding the coming peace negotiations in Washington will help to overcome all the differences that currently obstruct talks between the United States and the PLO.

Algeria

Islamic Front To Take Part in 26 Dec Elections

LD1011145191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1200 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Just 36 hours before the deadline for registering candidacies, the operation is continuing throughout the national territory. But the veil surrounding one of the great unknowns of this campaign has already been lifted.

The FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] will take part in the general elections on 26 December, or at least it has registered its candidates' application. There are about 40 parties in all at the starting line. The figures could of course change by midnight tomorrow, the deadline for the registration of candidacies. There are 449 applications in all, including 94 independents. [passage omitted]

President Receives Malian Foreign Minister

LD1011115391 Algiers APS in English 1030 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Algiers, Nov 10 (APS)—President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid received on Saturday at the presidency headquarters Malian Minister of Foreign Affairs Tieble Drame.

At the close of this audience, the Malian minister stated "Algeria supports Mali in seeking a democratic and negotiated solution to the crisis that strikes the north of Mali". "We regularly consult each other and get on very well. I can tell you that the president of the Republic remains resoluted to help Mali to find out a quick solution to this crisis" Tieble Drame added.

Police Use Tear Gas Against Mostaganem Students

LD1011142891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Police authorities have reported that around 300 to 400 students yesterday afternoon attempted to stage a march across the town of Mostaganem after a demonstration at the university center in Mostaganem. Security officials tried to disperse the demonstrators and urged them not to continue the demonstration. According to police authorities, the students resorted, however, to throwing stones at the security officials, who were forced to use tear gas and to arrest some of them. The students were carrying banners of a general nature which read: Students' Movement, the Youth Movement, and the Intellectual Youths.

Treasury Official Discusses Foreign Debt

LD0911130591 Algiers APS in English 1027 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Algeriers, 9/11/91 (APS)—The minister delegate to treasury, Ali Benouari, declared on Thursday that the reshaping of the Algerian external debt concerns only 15 to 20 per cent of the amount to be paid back in 1991, 1992 and during the three first months of 1993. On a global debt of about 25 billion dollars, Algeria is to reimburse during this period (1991-March 93) about 14 billion dollars and about 3 billion dollars of interests. The "reshapable" total amount would then reach about 2 billion dollars, which represents the share of the private debt not guaranteed by the states.

The essential of the Algerian debt is indeed constituted of public loans or guaranteed by the states, not reshapable, it is recalled. According to Benouari, the amount of reimbursements reached 9 billion of U.S. dollars in 1991 (7.5 billion of U.S. dollars in principal and 1.5 of interests), ie, 75 per cent of receipts of exports and about 7 billion of U.S. dollars in 1992 (6 billion of U.S. dollars in principal and 1 billion in interests) ie, 65 to 68 per cent of receipts of export.

The accord of loans of 1.6 billion dollars, recently signed with a trade union of eight international banks led by Le Credit Lyonnais (France) is not still achieved. This amount is to serve the reshaping the reimbursable debt til the first term of 1993.

The minister reached the conclusion that the reshaping—which is not even guaranteed for the time being—"does not settle down the problem of the debt". That would only enable "to alleviate a little bit, no more", he said.

"As long as we have not received a penny, we cannot say that there is a beginning of a solution to the debt" the minister noted, adding that the signing of a credit accord does not mean that the loan is acquired, he said, an accord is often followed by long negotiations.

"We have not the right to say that we have received 5 billion dollars on the basis of a mere letter of intention", Benouari still stressed speaking of negotiations with the U.S. insurances-credit company "Prudential Securities" in order to have this sum. The minister even qualified as "false" the information according to which the total debt was reshaped to 80 per cent.

Japan and France are Algeria's main creditors, while the USA "is disengaged from the Algerian market since 1980", Benouari declared, pointing out that the Arab states granted a "great assistance to Algeria" both through loans than through "real donations" but it is their "discretion" which made that one believes, according to him, that the support comes only from the Western countries.

Egypt

Reports on Visit by Yasir 'Arafat

Mahmud 'Abbas Prepares Visit

NC0811212691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, arrived on a visit of several days to Egypt.

He said he will hold talks with (?Egyptian officials) in preparation for PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, expected in the next two days.

He was received at the airport by Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal.

Musa Greets 'Arafat on Arrival

NC0911160691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Cairo tonight. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and a number of Palestinian leaders welcomed him at the airport.

Mubarak Receives PLO Chairman

NC0911164891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this evening received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo earlier today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

Musa on 'Arafat-Mubarak Meeting

NC0911192391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated following Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's talks with President Husni Mubarak that the talks were held as part of inter-Arab relations and that they dealt with the situation in the region and the goal of establishing peace in the Middle East. The discussion, he added, also covered a number of issues of interest to the Palestinian people and to us. He said: We are discussing a great number of important issues that concern the entire Arab nation.

Asked about reports that an Arab summit will be held at the request of president 'Arafat, Musa said: There are no arrangements for any summit at this time.

Asked if the date and place of the next round of bilateral negotiations were discussed during the meeting, Musa said: We did not discuss it with Mr. 'Arafat. He added: We are in touch with the parties to prepare for the coming round.

Asked if there is any Egyptian mediation to resume the Palestinian-U.S dialogue, Musa said: We cannot answer that now because we did not discuss this topic during the talks.

Regarding overall Arab coordination, Musa said this coordination exists and is continuing. He added: There will be further coordination during the meetings of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers. The consultations exist and continue among all the Arab countries at this important stage, that is, the peace-building stage, which is a goal to which the Arab countries are giving due attention.

Marked by 'Frankness and Openness'

NC1011105991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0944 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Cairo Sa'id Kamal has said that President Husni Mubarak's meeting yesterday with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat was characterized by frankness and openness about the future of peace negotiations and Egypt's firm stand in support of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's rights.

In a statement today, Kamal said the Palestinian-Egyptian meetings will continue to coordinate the Egyptian and Palestinian leadership stances.

Kamal said that a Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, will arrive in Cairo from Amman at noon today to meet with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Date Set for Resumption of Peace Talks

NC0911163891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1539 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that the bilateral negotiations between the parties concerned in the Middle East peace conference will resume during the third week of November. He said that final agreement on the venue of these negotiations is expected soon. Musa was speaking after President Husni Mubarak received Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek this evening.

Musa said: It is important that the peace negotiations resume and continue; time must not be wasted. We aim to negotiate on the basis of "land for peace," recognizing the need for this process to take place as soon as possible. Any delay is not in the Arabs' interest. We attach great importance to this issue. We hope that the peace talks will be resumed at the agreed time and that the peace process will pick up pace so that progress can be made.

Musa, Oppositionist on Talks With Shamir

NC0811180091 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 6 Nov 91 p 5

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa took some members of the Egyptian delegation with him to the meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir, Israel's prime minister and head of its delegation to the Madrid conference.

Lutfi al-Khuli said: One of Shamir's aides, Elyaqim Rubinstein, was handing Shamir "cards" with information on all the members of the Egyptian delegation. I noticed that similar "cards" on the heads of all the Arab

delegations when they were addressing the conference were given to Shamir in the conference hall.

Al-Khuli added: Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told me that there will be a meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir and the Israeli delegation. The foreign minister left me to decide whether to go or not. I asked myself: Since I am sitting at the same table with Shamir, why should I not see him, hear what he says, and argue with him? I decided to go, and I told the foreign minister that I would go with him to see Shamir.

The first thing I noticed was Elyaqim Rubinstein, one of Shamir's aides, handing him cards containing information on every member of the Egyptian delegation. This was repeated during the conference sessions.

At the start of the meeting, Shamir asked when he could visit Cairo. The Egyptian foreign minister replied: If you want to come to Cairo there must be progress in the peace process, such as halting the building of settlements, ending the Israeli occupation of the Golan, declaring that East Jerusalem is occupied territory, and releasing Palestinian detainees, as a sign of goodwill.

Shamir interrupted: You are demanding everything.

Musa replied: Then announce that the question of Jerusalem is subject to negotiations, halt the settlements, and come to Cairo. I will personally be responsible for this to President Husni Mubarak.

A long debate took place on the question of Jerusalem. Shamir said: We have experts in international law who said that Jerusalem is the historical capital of the State of Israel and therefore there can be no concessions on it.

Musa replied: We, too, have the same international law experts and they confirm Jerusalem's Arab-Palestinian identity. You tried this during the Tabah negotiations but your legal experts failed.

Shamir: There was a mistake and misunderstanding on Tabah.

Lutfi al-Khuli intervened and said to Shamir: I suspect that you intend to demand the restoration of Tabah to Israel again.

Here Rubinstein gave my "card" to Shamir who read it quickly and said: I know you are from the Egyptian opposition. From which party?

[Al-Khuli] From the opposition that you do not welcome. I am from the National Progressive Unionist Grouping.

[Shamir] What is your stand on the negotiations and the peace efforts we are exerting?

[Al-Khuli] We accept whatever the PLO accepts and reject whatever it rejects.

Here Shamir asked 'Amr Musa: Is this the Egyptian Government's stand, too?

'Amr Musa replied: This is the Egyptian opposition's stand and we respect it.

Shamir went on to say: In any case, there are moderate Palestinians and there are terrorist Palestinians too.

Lutfi al-Khuli replied: It appears that you are negotiating with the terrorists.

Shamir asked: How can this be?

Al-Khuli replied: All the Palestinian delegation members belong to the PLO. You have refused to negotiate with Yasir 'Arafat. All seven Palestinians [in the joint delegation with Jordan] are Yasir 'Arafat. Even two of the Jordanian delegation members are 'Arafat (Walid al-Khalidi and al-Khatib). There are at least nine 'Arafats before you. I do not want to tell you that you will see 'Arafat in all the Arab delegations, such as those who have reservations about 'Arafat himself. But you will see 'Arafat in the conference and among the observers.

Shamir asked: Who, for example?

Lutfi al-Khuli replied: Prince Bandar Ibn-Sultan (Saudi ambassador in Washington) because he has said that regardless of the differences between us and the PLO and 'Arafat, King Fahd's instructions are to support the Palestinian issue and demands.

The dialogue moved from one topic to another. Shamir received firm replies on the issues discussed from all members of the Egyptian delegation. After tiring of the firm Egyptian stand, he said in a high pitch: Where do we go? We are a small country. Are we to go to the moon?

Lutfi al-Khuli replied: That is a splendid idea, and solves the problem. In fact, Israel will become a pioneering country and the Israelis will be the first pioneers to settle on the moon. You will establish the first country in history there. Thus you will solve the Middle East problem, leave the region, and the world will rest from this conflict.

Shamir said: No, we will send astronauts to the moon, but we will remain here in the region.

Al-Khuli: What a pity. You could have entered history as the establisher of the State of Israel on the moon. It would be better than the State of Israel on earth.

Shamir: You don't want us next to you.

Al-Khuli said: Let us be frank. Neither of us wants the other, but we are living in one area. This is a reality we must recognize, on condition that it is done within the framework of a real and just peace. It was Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] who called for this to the extent that he asked for a confederal state with you.

Shamir: He thinks he is clever. He wants the democratic state to eliminate Israel.

Al-Khuli: On the contrary. I even support the slogan of peace for peace.

Rubinstein replied eagerly: This is a good point.

Al-Khuli: The important thing is the substance of peace. You say that peace is a compromise and we are ready for the compromise according to practical and U.S. criteria. We are ready for mutual concessions.

Shamir asked: What are the concessions?

Al-Khuli: We have, in fact, given you the concessions. We have accepted Israel within the pre-5 June 1967 borders. These borders include more lands than those allocated by the partition resolution drawn by Bernadotte (the UN envoy killed by Shamir's terrorist organization).

Shamir looked at 'Amr Musa with surprise and said: Is this the view of the opposition in Egypt? The Egyptian press writes racist things against us. We know that the Egyptian press is free and has no censorship, but there is racist propaganda, such as depicting the Jews as Shylock.

Lutfi al-Khuli: Our press is, in fact, free, but Minister 'Amr Musa has asked Egyptian journalists not to respond to the Israeli provocations in the same manner. We are not responsible for this question of Shylock. A man named Shakespeare is responsible for it. Some journalists in Egypt and in many countries imagine that the personality of Shylock applies to a certain person inside or outside Israel.

At the end of the meeting, the Egyptian foreign minister told Shamir: If President Mubarak asks me about this meeting, I will tell him that I came to you with high hopes of the new peace spirit, but left with my hopes dashed. As a responsible man, however, I will try not to give this impression in a public statement, in the hope that your actions and behavior in the conference will change this impression.

'Extreme Concern' Over Israeli Raids in Lebanon

NC0811193391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry's official spokesman today voiced extreme concern over the continued Israeli artillery shelling of areas in south Lebanon.

The spokesman said he hoped the shelling would stop so that Lebanese-Israeli negotiations could resume in a favorable atmosphere of calm.

Interior Ministry To Tighten Border Security

NC1211065991 Paris AFP in English 2354 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, Nov 12 (AFP) - Egypt is to sharply increase security measures at its ports and airports to guard against terrorist attacks linked to its role in the Middle East peace conference, an Interior Ministry official said Monday.

He said Interior Minister 'Abd al-Halim Musa had ordered security forces to be on the lookout for "any action intended to destabilise Egypt, or to bring in weapons."

Eygpt's Islamic fundamentalist groups have been agitating against the country's participation in the Middle East talks.

Iran 'No Less Dangerous' Than Saddam

NC1111133091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR chief editor Jalal Duwaydar has voiced his concern about Iran's ambitions in the Gulf region, stressing that they are no less dangerous that those of Saddam Husayn, who schemed and was prepared to swallow up Kuwait had he not been stopped by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the international community.

In an article published today, Duwaydar says that Tehran's rulers continue to have illusions and ambitions. He says that they are working to control and impose their hegemony on the Arab region under the cover of dishonest and false claims.

Referring to a statement by Qatari heir apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani that Iran cannot be excluded from any security order for the Arab Gulf, the writer expressed his belief that it is not in the interest of Qatar or the Gulf states to replace the danger of adventurist gamblers with the danger posed by the Iranians.

Sudan

SPLM Spokesman Says al-Bashir Blocks Talks

PM1111151991 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 91 p 4

['Uthman Mirghani report: "Garang Movement Adviser Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: People's Movement Has Not Withdrawn From National Grouping"]

[Text] London—Dr. Mansur Khalid, political adviser to Garang's movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement—SPLM], has accused the government of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir of obstructing peace in Sudan "because it does not believe in it." He added that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's government has used the differences within the Garang movement as an excuse to postpone the peace negotiations that were supposed to begin in Abuja, Nigeria at the end of last month.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Dr. Mansur Khalid said that the Abuja negotiations were postponed at the request of al-Bashir's government, "which used the pretext that the secession moves within Garang's movement would not help the establishment of peace."

He added that al-Bashir's government adopted the same position on the negotiations over the relief operations in southern Sudan by insisting that the Lam Akol wing of the movement be represented in the negotiations, a matter which was rejected by the United Nations on the grounds that it did not want that to be exploited as a way of giving that wing legitimacy.

Dr. Khalid also said: "The [National Islamic] Front's military government is exploiting the differences within the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to obstruct the peace process." The SPLM's position, he said, is that it is ready to negotiate at any time and that it has conveyed that position to the Nigerian mediator.

Dr. Mansur Khalid strongly denied reports of fighting between the SPLM and the dissident wing led by Eric Mashar and Lam Akol, adding that certain parties were making reconciliation efforts.

On whether or not there was any inclination to introduce organizational reforms within Garang's movement, as requested by the dissident wing, Dr. Khalid said that the reorganization process was continuing and that this was natural in any movement or organization.

He also said that a committee had been formed within the SPLM under the chairmanship of Silva Kir to review the cases of the individuals against whom some decisions had been made and to examine the question of legal controls concerning accountability within the movement.

Dr. Khalid revealed that there were disturbances in the town of Juba and that the movement was tightening its siege of that town in preparation for a major military campaign. He added that the Sudanese Army in Juba has begun withdrawing arms from southern soldiers because of suspicions that they sympathized with the SPLM.

He denied that Garang's movement had suspended its activities within the opposition's National Democratic Grouping and said: Talks and coordination are continuing between the movement and the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party. The SPLM, he said, will soon appoint someone to work at the National Grouping's branch in London.

As for his recent visit to the United States, Dr. Mansur Khalid stated that it was a private visit despite the many activities and contacts made. He said that he made a private call on U.S. President Bush and his family, and that he had meetings with Herman Cohen, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and the chairmen of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees. The talks, he said, focused on the question of peace in Sudan, the relief operations, and the situation in the Horn of Africa in general.

He added that all the U.S. officials he met with emphasized the importance of Sudan's unity, political plurality, human rights, and the freedom of the judiciary.

U.S. Criticizes Asylum for 'Rejectionist' Groups

PM1111161191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 91 p 1

['Uthman Mirghani report: "United States Told Sudan It Was Concerned About Sudan Giving Asylum to 'Rejectionist Movements'"]

[Excerpts] London from 'Uthman Mirghani; Khartoum from AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the United States has conveyed to Sudan its deep concern over Sudan's attitude toward the Madrid peace conference and its opening offices in Khartoum for the rejectionist movements.

The sources said that Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, recently summoned Sudan's ambassador in Washington and told him that the Sudanese Government's position on the Middle East peace process was unsatisfactory, that the U.S. Administration was certain that the Sudanese Government had opened offices in Khartoum for the "rejectionist front" opposed to the peace process, and that it (the U.S. Administration) was unhappy about the presence of such groups in Sudan.

It is worth noting that U.S. relations with the government of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir have long been tense and have deteriorated further after the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Khartoum, former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has denied claims by some circles that he might join al-Bashir's government in an expected cabinet reshuffle. Al-Mahdi said that he has had no recent contacts with the government and that that nobody has discussed such a matter with him. He added that everything said about his participation in the present government was completely unfounded.

'Secret Document' Reveals Islamic Training Camps

NC0911155091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1403 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Tunis, 9 Nov (MENA)—According to press reports published here today, a secret document smuggled out of the Sudan reveals that Islamic elements are being trained at camps in the Sudan to serve as a nucleus for Islamic action in Europe.

The Tunisian paper AKHBAR AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the document is in the form of a letter that General Bakri Hasan Salih, head of the revolution's security aparatus in Sudan, has sent to Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the ruling Military Council. The document reveals that training camps in the Sudan began operating on 23 May but that the explosives training program has been changed because

not enough Semtex material is available. The document notes that the mojahedin in Iran have promised to provide this basic material.

As for the training program, the document says that it involves training in small weapons, self-defense, the use of explosives, laying ambushes, manufacturing explosives from local materials, the knowledge of topography, and the use of night-vision equipment.

The document says that there are 65 people from Tunisia, Algeria, France, and Belgium in the al-Shumbat and al-Mazra'ah camps, and that these persons will be regarded as the main nucleus of Islamic action in Europe.

State Names Members of Foreign Affairs Committee

EA1111201591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1613 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Nov (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir has issued a decree on the formation of the Foreign Affairs Committee under his chairmanship. The decree stipulated the committee's jurisdictions as providing solutions and proposals to improve and promote the foreign policy: to arrange foreign policy priorities: coordination between various ministries and government units with regard to foreign policy: follow-up implementation of agreements and protocols in accordance with the state's directives and policies: follow-up and evaluation of executive and diplomatic performance in order to realize the announced objectives and policies of the state.

The decree stipulated the committee's membership as follows:

RCC Chairman Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman

Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, RCC member, acting chairman of

the Political Committee and chairman of Peace Department - member.

Col. Bakri Hasan Salih, RCC member and chief of general security organ -

member.

'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning -

member.

Dr. Mustafa Uthman Isma'il, secretary of International Popular

Friendship Council (IPFC) - member.

'Ali M. 'Uthman Yasin, first under-secretary of Foreign Ministry -

member.

Al-Bashir Dismisses Culture Minister

EA0611131991 Khartoum SUNA in English 1610 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Nov (SUNA)—The chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, Wednesday decreed the relieving of culture [and] information minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad from his post. The RCC chairman, in another decree, appointed Ahmad as an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry at the rank of a [word indistinct] minister.

'Arafat Meets Al-Bashir in Khartoum

EA0911192591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1646 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 9 Nov (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and Premier [Lieutenant] Gen 'Umar al-Bashir held Saturday [9 November] talks with the Palestinian president, Yasir 'Arafat, during his four hours stop-over at Khartoum airport.

In a statement to SUNA, 'Arafat said he acquainted Gen al-Bashir with the recent developments [that] took place during Madrid conference on the Middle East. At the same time, he said he listened to views and advices of Gen al-Bashir who affirmed to him Sudan's full support to Arab and Palestinian stances against Israeli ambitions and conspiracies. 'Arafat added that his meeting with al-Bashir came at a time [when] the Arab nation in general and the Palestinian problem in particular are facing serious challenges during and post Madrid conference.

'Arafat renewed confirmation that al-Quds (Jerusalem) is the eternal capital of the Palestinian state. He stressed the Palestinian lands. [sentence as received] [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Meets With Libyan Trade Official

EA0911105391 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and Council of Ministers, has acquainted himself with the outcome of the meetings of the Libyan company for development and investment and the ongoing efforts to consolidate trade between Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, as well as significant projects. His excellency met at noon today with Dr. Faruq al-Bushrah, the [Sudanese-Libyan] integration secretary general.

In a statement to the press after the meeting, Dr. Faruq al-Bushrah said that the study of the projects added by the joint ministerial committee of Sudan and the Jamahiriyah at its recent meeting was reviewed. These projects include corn, fruit, vegetable, grain, and [word indistinct] projects in the central state; the livestock breeding, meat production, and concentrated fodder

projects in Khartoum state; and the wheat and vegetable farming project in the northern state. His excellency said that the studies were divided between the Arab organization for Arab agricultural development and scientific teams of university professors and specialists. He pointed out that the studies had made considerable headway and that they would be submitted in their final form to the ministerial committee in Khartoum at the end of December.

As for the factories of the Arab Libyan Company, his excellency said that a decision had been made to contribute toward building a fodder factory and that $2.5 million had been earmarked for forwarding tenders for industrial imports. It was primarily agreed to purchase a ship to transport livestock, to provide funds for an inland transport company, and to import earth movers and (?repair) rural roads, in addition to renovating an onion factory in Kasala and conducting a study on renovating the Port Sudan textile factory. He added that the council [as heard] had agreed to begin yellow corn farming at Abu (Hujar) with the Moroccan company [not further specified].

As for the activities of the trade delegation and what had been achieved, his excellency said that preliminary agreements on the quantity that could be exported to the Jamahiriyah had been concluded. He also said that the Jamahiriyah is currently preparing an export budget for 1992 that will be directed toward Sudan and that a final agreement would be submitted to the popular congresses for endorsement. Guidelines have also been issued in the Jamahiriyah on confining meat imports to Sudan, he said. A final agreement was concluded in this regard on the quantities involved, and the departure of the first planeload of meat for the Jamahiriyah was set for 4 December.

Integration Official Discusses Ties With Libya

EA1111212091 Khartoum SUNA in English 0939 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Nov (SUNA)—Integration between Sudan and Libya was progressing seriously towards the realization of unity between the two countries through the unification of political bodies, trade unions federations, students sectors, popular committees and the establishment of joint economic, commercial and productive institutions, said the secretary of integration affairs, Jum'ah al-Fazzani. Addressing a forum organized by the Sudanese newspaper "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" in Tripoli recently, al-Fazzani said that great efforts were exerted since the announcement of integration between the two countries in March 1990 covered industrial, agricultural, financial, educational, economic and legislation sectors. The capital of the Arab Libyan-Sudanese investment and development company was supported recently by a sum of 45 million dollars to enable it implement its projects in the fields of industry and agricultural, the secretary of integration added.

Al-Fazzani also reviewed what have achieved in the economic fields besides the basic agreements signed in several aspects. He said that the Libyan exports to Sudan reached during the first nine months of the current year 40 million dollars except the petroleum materials and except what have been exported through unofficial channels. Al-Fazzani also indicated the several twinship agreements between Sudanese states and Libyan municipalities in the framework of integration.

Official Holds Talks With Iraqi Ambassador

EA1011205191 Khartoum SUNA in English 1742 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Nov (SUNA)—Member of the RCC [Revolutionary Command Council] Maj-Gen al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir has reiterated the call upon the peace-loving countries to lift the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. During an encounter with the Iraqi ambassador here, Maj-Gen al-Tahir said the hostile actions being taken by Israel in the time that was witnessing the convocation of the Madrid conference [as received] reaffirmed the fact that the UN resolutions are not being applied equally for all countries. He emphasized Sudan's support to Iraq's demand for lifting the economic blockade from it. Maj-Gen al-Tahir and the Iraqi ambassador reviewed during the encounter the progress of bilateral relations between the Sudan and Iraq.

Western Sahara

Polisario: Morocco Raising 'Obstacles' to Peace

LD0811231191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] In Western Sahara, Morocco is beginning a new maneuver to impede the UN peace plan in Western Sahara, according to the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front. A communique published today by the front denounced the stance of King Hassan, whom it said is raising new obstacles to prevent the implementation of the UN peace plan in Western Sahara.

King Hassan II had declined to recognize the mission of the UN delegation and the powers of its leader on Saharan territory. The mission aims to monitor the various stages of the peace plan.

According to a Saharan communique published today, the Moroccan monarch intends to visit Western Sahara. This visit has aroused the protest of several German deputies. The communique pointed out that the German deputies consider King Hassan II's visit to Western Sahara an insult to the UN Security Council resolution on Western Sahara, as it comes at a time when the Saharan territory is considered under UN control.

The Saharan communique also said that the German deputies had protested against the arrests and torture of Saharans who refuse to collaborate with the Moroccan forces.

Sources—Signs of Saddam 'Family Power Struggle'

NC0811201491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Taqyi Mudarissi, head of the Islamic Action Organization, called on the Iraqi Army to depose the defeated tyrant. In a statement issued in Damascus, he said that the tyrant's appointment of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid as defense minister indicates that dictator Saddam Husayn intends to carry out a new series of executions within Army ranks.

Meanwhile, informed sources have stated that the defeated tyrant's dismissal of Husayn Kamil, his cousin and son-in-law, as defense minister and the appointment of his other cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid in his place is part of the family power struggle within the regime. It is also part of the policy of maintaining a balance in family power that dictator Saddam Husayn pursued since his defeat in the Gulf war. The same sources pointed out that the game of keeping a balance in family power within the defeated regime reminds us of those dictator Saddam Husayn killed, such as Lieutenant General 'Adnan Khayrallah, who was killed in a helicopter crash in May 1989. The sources noted that the roots of struggle within the tyrant's regime cannot but ultimately lead to a result such as that of the Gulf war, during which each of the tyrant's lackeys tried to blame others. The sources emphasized that the defeated tyrant lives in such a state of fear that he suspects his closest allies and family members.

Further on 'Family Differences'

NC1111162691 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Well-informed sources from the Iraqi opposition uncovered family differences within tyrant Saddam's family, which triggered the dismissal of the tyrant's son-in-law, Defense Minister Husayn Kamil Majid. The sources say that Husayn Kamil, his wife—the tyrant's daughter—as well as the tyrant's wife [name indistinct] and her son 'Uday recently started to establish a center of power [word indistinct], according to reports presented to the tyrant by his intelligence apparatus.

The sources say that the suspension of the newspaper BABIL and the AL-RAFIDAYN magazine, both owned by the tyrant's son 'Uday, was upon a decree issued by dictator Saddam as part of other disciplinary measures against the family alliance, which the Iraqis describe as the gang of four [passage indistinct].

The intelligence report notes that the BABIL newspaper and the AL-RAFIDAYN magazine were deliberately focusing their spotlight on Husayn Kamil in a manner that [words indistinct] the tyrant himself. The report also notes that dictator Saddam Husayn's picture did not appear on the first page of six issues of BABIL. [passage omitted]

Saddam, Ministers Discuss Reconstruction Efforts

JN1011165091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1634 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn today chaired a meeting attended by Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister; Hatim Hamdan al-'Izzawi, head of the Presidential Office; Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad, minister of housing and reconstruction; Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti, oil Minister; Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals; and a number of experts.

During the meeting, a number of issues related to doubling efforts to reconstruct what the aggressors and agents damaged, and rendering the necessary services to our citizens were discussed.

Saddam Speech to Officials on Media Tasks

JN1111205291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn said that Western media play a major role in distorting facts, brainwashing, and many similar things. We do not want our media to convince Westerners that their rulers are silly, unjust, and deniers of popular rights. On the other hand, the president said, we want our media to convince the Iraqis of things where right is evident, and to keep them away from things where wrong is evident. We do not want our media to depart from the truth, in right and wrong alike.

Addressing officials in charge of media organs, his excellency said: We want you to describe right as it stands, and wrong as it stands, using methods that prompt citizens to see right and cling to it, and see wrong and evade and fight it. The president said that the Ba'th Party's 10th congress was called the Congress of Jihad and Construction due to the requirements of the stage, and accordingly, we want our media to be organs of jihad and construction above anything else.

The president's remarks came during his visit today to the Ministry of Information and Culture and his meeting with the minister and officials in charge of the media. President Saddam Husayn added: If diversity and dissemination are always needed, concentration is also needed. The most important thing we should do is to invoke our history, which is bright with jihad, cultural construction, and patience. For instance, our citizens should know about the three-year-long blockade imposed by the infidels against our great leader, the messenger of God, may God's peace and prayers be on him, and his family and companion in Mecca. Citizens should understand the motives of the blockade, and know the spirit of jihad, the belief, and the patience that enabled the early Muslims to confront the plight and prevail over their enemies.

The leader president said that democracy is not only a method of action in politics, but is a way of life. University professors, writers, officials, or artists should not be annoyed by criticism and argument while they ask others to be democratic only in politics. It is inconceivable that the artist asks the politician to discuss and criticize political aspects while the artist, or the writer, feels annoyed if the politician criticizes a painting or an article, for example.

The leader president said that before the emergence of the new terms, Arabs observed wise values in their life. For them, "life is advice," and "the true friend is the one who tells you the truth, not the one who believes you." We should adhere to these values.

Regarding complaints by some citizens about the price of some foodstuffs, the leader president said: As a matter of fact, if the commodity is available in sufficient amounts to the state, then citizens have the right to complain. However, if the state possesses only the rations it distributes to citizens, and if it is distributing these rations fairly, then citizens do not have the right to complain. If a citizen wants to be different than the others, asking for more of this or that commodity, more than the state can provide, then, naturally, he should pay the difference in cost. But under the current circumstances, with the existence of the blockade, people should dispense with things that are not essential for survival or health. They should cut down on spending and find ways, through housewives, to make better quality food using fewer and cheaper materials. This requires help from the media, which should educate people on how to use foodstuffs properly. If media personnel return to the old women of the homeland, they will learn from them many useful and good things about home economics, from which younger women can benefit, both in economically and competently preparing food for the family and in managing the house.

The leader president said: Building the human being does not come from one side, which is the spiritual side. We should give the spiritual side of our life a great deal of good things; not only to deal with the current situation, but because it is a basic part of our ideological and cultural structure, and a base for our faith. Therefore, the contribution of serious information from the media, which builds oneself, must be greater.

The leader president added: I do not believe in a process of slow development, similar to Switzerland or France, because their development took a long time and there is now a 300-year gap. I want to see the Iraqi citizen now, while I am alive, on the same level as the French, if not better. I am not prepared to wait until others come to continue the march, because this would mean that the gap will continue to exist, especially since simple relative development does not treat a wound in all fields, including the economic field. I do not only want the present generation to eat well and to be happy, but I also look forward to seeing future generations eat and drink well, be happy, and not threatened in their lives. Some countries will have nothing left and will retreat when their oil is exhausted. However, some poor countries are now able to improve their condition by exploiting their resources in the best possible manner.

Leader President Saddam Husayn added: Some Iraqis are not aware, so far, of the epic achievements they made in the Mother of Battles. Regrettably, they cannot know the truth behind their sons' jihad without traveling outside the country. The Iraqis, under the circumstances of blockade, might not know that they are in better shape than many fraternal and friendly countries, because there is no proof of this in figures, including commodity prices.

Leader President Saddam Husayn: In the West, they claim that Third World countries are backward and seek all the help possible to save them from backwardness. However, to be aware of the fact of their intentions, it would be sufficient for you to know that when Iraq, one of the Third World countries, began to wake up, aggression was launched against it to stop its awakening. Moreover, a nation that God has chosen to convey His messages has the right to exist at the expense of no one. I mean that we want to have control over our will. For example, it is not unjust to say that we want to be united, especially since there has never been a nation that achieved a good future, free from catastrophes, without being united.

Regarding the duties of information on the pan-Arab level, the leader president said: We are an aggrieved people and nation. Those who wronged us are lowly imperialists and Zionists.

His excellency said: The unity of the nation that we seek is not necessarily a constitutional unity under one flag or one leadership, nor is it a unity which obliterates national characters. However, the first step of unity is to be convinced that we are one nation, that unity is our way of confronting dangers that obstruct our march, and that unity paves our way for a future free of catastrophes.

Leader President Saddam Husayn added: The standards of the age are based on science and technology, the material part of it. This material part helps build the spiritual and psychological part. We should achieve progress in the fields of material development based on this. When we started to achieve progress, the conspiracy came. This is because the enemies have drawn a red line for the Arabs, which they must not cross over. However, this does not mean that we must stop and stay in our place. Life is just not like that; it is a struggle. If the enemies have plans to strike at any ruler, regime, or leader who wants to exceed the limits drawn for him, then this should not at all mean that one must stop jihad or stop confronting challenges. On the contrary, he should continue to make progress.

Leader President Saddam Husayn said: The great issues in the standards of life make people in accordance with an unusual pattern and in an unfamiliar way. This is because the margin of risk in such issues will be big. Had

the margin of risk been a small one, great material and cultural edifices would never have been built.

His excellency said: On the path of advancing humanity, many messengers, prophets, and great reformists either went away, faced fatal situations, or suffered so much that a lot of them died before they saw the fruits of their labor and messages. However, pleasing God, as well as the continued progress of humanity, were enough for them. A nation, which offers abnormal sacrifices, is certainly a great one. There is no great nation without sacrifices that exceed traditional and familiar ones to miraculous and new ones.

Oh glorious Iraqis, you have undertaken unmatched performances and you have offered unfamiliar sacrifices, all within the framework of an international situation based on submission, psychological defeat, and subservience. However, there were some brilliant aspects. For example, when the president of a big power like France wants to take a new step disapproved by the Americans, he is compelled to retreat and withdraw his words as soon as the U.S. Administration protests explicitly or implicitly. A prime minister of a Third World state; namely Malaysia, announces that it is impossible to establish a new world order and a stable human society as long as the United States imposes tyranny on the world.

This is the difference between a power which, even though it is big, must bow because of inequity, and between a daring power, which, although it is weak, does not bow because its statements are just. I say this while we still are under blockade, but when the blockade is broken—and it will be broken—your lessons to humanity will be deeper and more comprehensive. I also say that if the blockade had been terminated immediately after the end of the aggression, most facts would not have been understood, and people would not have been able to see the motives of the aggression and the conspiracy as they truly are. But the blockade has continued to show that the goals of aggression and conspiracy were not restricted to the issue of Kuwait. Rather, they preceded this issue, accompanied it, and continued after it. These evil motives and wicked purposes are now known by all, including foreigners, Arabs, and Iraqis. The Iraqis have become stronger, more coherent, and more faithful as a result of the exposure.

If the United States had lifted the blockade immediately after the aggression, it would have appeared as if it were a kind rescuer that had no purpose other than supporting a friend. However, its continued blockade has shown its true identity as a power that is hostile to humanity and progress. The leader president concluded by saying: We thank God very much for what has happened. All that God wants is useful and wise. This is proven by the fact that all that was destroyed by the aggressors and agents has been reconstructed by the Iraqis, and what was originally built by foreign expertise and was destroyed has also been reconstructed and built even better by Iraqis. This means that the Iraqis are at a high level of construction and struggle, just as they are in other fields. The Iraqis are intelligent, skillful, faithful, strugglers, builders, adherent to their ideals, land, and vision.

The leader president was accompanied during his visit to the Ministry of Culture and Information by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office. The leader president was also received and seen off by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi.

Democratic Party of Kurdistan Supports Saddam

JN1011180491 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan said that it takes great pride in the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn, who expresses the Iraqi people's greatness in progress, creativity, and sacrifice.

In a statement issued at the end of its ordinary meeting, the bureau reaffirmed readiness to sacrifice souls so that Iraq's banner can remain fluttering over the peaks of glory through the Iraqis' loyalty to their homeland and to the march of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution.

The party belittled the lies and claims of the U.S. Administration and world Zionism about the Kurdish people's rights—lies and claims that are part of the chapters of the 30-state aggression against the Iraqi people and that reveal the falsehood of those who are trading in nations as well as the wicked and shameless ways they use in dealing with them. It also pointed out that while they impose a blockade on the Iraqi people—Arabs and Kurds—the imperialist forces claim that they are defending what they call the Kurdish rights, as part of an exposed maneuver to step up their conspiracy against our people, pretending to have forgotten their brutal crimes against all Kurds as well as their support for regimes that are shedding Kurdish blood.

In its statement, the party also denounced the inhuman acts of the American forces by burying Iraqi officers and soldiers alive during the Mother of Battles.

It also condemned the brutal military measures by the Turkish authorities against the Kurdish villages as well as slaying and arresting thousands of Kurds.

Government, Opposition-Kurds Clash in Two Areas

Continued Shelling in South

NC1011145791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Iraqi opposition leader Muhammad Zafir al-Hakim sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar warning that the tyrant has rallied his forces to prepare for an attack on the wetlands next week.

In the memorandum, he pointed out that in preparation for this attack, the tyrant's forces shelled the villages of [names indistinct] and that they continue shelling the villages and towns in southern Iraq, in addition to arresting citizens.

Mr. Muhammad Zafir al-Hakim said in his memorandum that the authorities of the defeated regime have tightened their economic siege on the regions of southern Iraq and prevented food from reaching the citizens. He pointed out that this siege only worsens the bad circumstances the citizens are living under, particularly women and children.

Government Forces Advance in North

NC0911175691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] The defeated tyrant's forces have begun to advance on the main cities of the north. Kurdish gunmen mobilized their forces to stop this advance. The new military moves of the tyrant's forces, the economic siege that has been imposed on northern cities, and the appointment of a new Iraqi defense minister heightened the fears that the defeated tyrant Saddam Husayn is planning a new offensive.

Jalal al-Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said he believes that Saddam is preparing to carry out a military operation to reoccupy the main cities in the north. He told the crew of a Finnish television station that as of sunset yesterday, the tyrant's forces had advanced to within 12 km from Irbil, the Kurdish administrative capital.

Talabani added in this interview, which was also reported by REUTER, that the Kurds have redeployed their forces and remobilized the civilian militias in Irbil.

The cities of the north were the scene of fierce fighting last Tuesday. The Kurds said that they fought a six-hour battle to prevent two divisions of the tyrant's forces from advancing along the road from Qadir Karam to Chamchamal. Talabani said that five revolutionaries were killed in the fighting and 15 others were injured. He added that the tyrant's forces suffered greater losses.

Following this battle, the Kurdish groups sent a four-member delegation to Baghdad in an attempt to persuade the tyrant's regime to lift the siege imposed on the north. The delegation, however, has not yet met with any senior government official.

Talabani said that these moves constitute a provocation. He added that if the tyrant feels that the Kurds have not fortified their positions, he will first advance to Irbil and later to Chamchamal and al-Sulaymaniyah.

Last month the tyrant's regime withdrew its forces from Irbil and some other areas.

Meanwhile, Kurdish sources said that they had alerted the Western allied forces' military coordination center in Zakho of these developments. The tyrant's regime is supposed to inform this center of what its forces are doing in the north. This center is all that is left of a 15,000-troop force dispatched by the allied forces to northern Iraq earlier this year to assist hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled to Turkey in the wake of the Gulf war.

The situation has deteriorated in northern Iraq following the imposition of an economic siege by the defeated tyrant's forces. They have cut off food and fuel supplies and reduced government services in the northern areas. Refugees have said that food prices have risen to unprecedented levels and that there are long lines at gasoline stations. Employees, particularly teachers, are not getting their salaries. Many of them are refusing to work in northern Iraq. They pointed out that the lack of fuel hinders UN relief operations in the areas. No fewer than 10,000 refugees have been stranded on the road leading to the area south of al-Sulaymaniyah because of lack of vehicle fuel.

A Kurdish official has announced that Kurdish groups believe that the defeated tyrant is using this siege to force Kurds to abandon some of their basic demands for autonomy.

Over 18,000 Regime Forces Near Ibril

NC1011154791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Thousands of members of the defeated tyrant's forces and Kurdish gunmen took up positions to prepare for a battle south of Irbil. A Kurdish leader said he is defying the tyrant's orders to make way for the advance of his forces. He pointed out that Kurdish gunmen are preparing to confront an estimated 18,000 soldiers of the tyrant's forces, which have advanced along three highways to a distance no more than 12 km from the city.

REUTER cited a member of the Kurdish groups deployed at the confrontation line near the village of Pir Da'ud, saying that the two sides stand face to face about 700 meters apart.

He also pointed out that the Kurdish [word indistinct] led by (Mustafa al-Haram) deployed his forces along both sides of the highway leading to (Makhluf). Al-Haram told reporters yesterday that the tyrant sent them three messages asking them to leave so they can enter Irbil. They answered that their orders are to prevent the tyrant's forces from entering the town.

The advance of the tyrant's forces toward Irbil is one of a series of maneuvers by those forces that the Kurdish leaders described in a cable to the tyrant's regime protesting the provocative maneuvers.

Kurdish officials said the tyrant's forces are also advancing toward Dahuk, Chamchamal, and al-Sulaymaniyah.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan announced last night that Saddam's forces shelled the area between Karkuk and Klar, which was the scene of battles nearly every day last week.

Clash Reported Outside Irbil

JN1011202891 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Iraqi troops and Kurdish guerrillas have reportedly clashed outside the city of Irbil. Fighting broke out at midday today and continued sporadically throughout the afternoon. Three Kurds were reported injured in the clashes with rifles, machine guns, and mortars.

Earlier today, news reports from northern Iraq said thousands of Iraqi Government troops and Kurdish guerrillas have lined up for battle south of the Kurdish city of Irbil.

Iraqi Government troops are apparently trying to retake positions they abandoned voluntarily over the past two weeks. A Kurdish guerrilla said one bullet could start a war in the area.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, led by Mas'ud Barzani, are divided over strategy if the Iraqi troops overrun their positions. Both have been at odds for months over a draft autonomy agreement with the Iraqi Government.

A Kurdish delegation is now in Baghdad to discuss the Iraqi troop movements and what was described as Iraqi blockade of Kurdistan.

Regime's Advance on Irbil Obstructed

NC1111160191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] REUTER reports that well-armed Kurds are obstructing the tyrant's troops advance toward Irbil along three highways. The tyrant forces are apparently trying to regain the positions they abandoned in the last two weeks.

Kurds say that Pir Da'ud was under regime control until eight days ago, when the tyrant's troops suddenly left. The commander of the tyrant's forces sent an ultimatum to armed persons yesterday to withdraw from their positions, rejecting an offer to negotiate. He warned that the tyrant's troops will use tanks and helicopters in their next attack.

Two American planes appeared and flew over the tyrant's forces' in what was described as a reminder that the Kurds have friends and brothers monitoring the situation.

REUTER adds that if the fighting extends to Irbil, home to 8,000 people, the Kurds will find it difficult to escape because the economic siege recently imposed by the defeated regime cut supplies and fuel.

[Name indistinct], Irbil's military commander, said [words indistinct] the attack that took place yesterday, noting that it was not a real attack on the regime's part, but merely an attempt at intimidation.

Kurdish officials said that the Kurdish delegation that has been in Baghdad since 6 November to discuss troop movements and the siege imposed on some areas in the north—a siege that has entered its third week—has failed to hold significant negotiations.

Spokesman—Kurdish Forces on Alert

NC1011182891 Paris AFP in English 1811 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Ankara, Nov 10 (AFP)—Kurdish forces in northern Iraq are in a constant state of alert, Sirjil Kazas, a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said here Sunday.

He refused, however, to comment on reports that the Kurds were preparing for fresh fighting against Saddam Husayn's forces.

A British Labour Party MP, Ann Clwyd, meanwhile accused United Nations officials in the region of ignoring the new Iraqi offensive against Kurds.

Kazas said that in all the liberated zones of Iraqi Kurdistan, the Peshmergas (freedom fighters) "are always on alert against the Iraqi Army."

"This is not a new situation," he told AFP, while refusing to be drawn on the press reports of preparations being made for a pitched battle or street fighting against the Iraqis.

Clwyd, who is in northern Iraq, issued a statement through her London office in which she said that the Kurdish population was frightened "and beginning to flee. A renewed exodus is taking place," she said.

"It seems to me that the U.N. is turning a blind eye to everything," Clwyd, who is the Labour Party spokesman on overseas development, said.

Government Spokesman Denies Offensive

JN1011184491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1811 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—An official spokesman here denied news reports carried by Western and Zionist media to the effect that the Iraqi Armed Forces are preparing for an all-out offensive against what they termed centers of resistance in northern Iraq.

In his comments to INA, the spokesman added that these news reports reflect a willful attempt by the quarters that are behind these media. He went on to say that this attempt, whose objectives and intentions are exposed, is not only baseless, but also seeks to muddle the march of the ongoing dialogue between the central government and the Kurdish parties' front.

In his refutation of these allegations, the spokesman noted: These news reports, which are fabricated by the enemies of Iraq's unity, also smack of exposed coordination among some colonialist and Zionist quarters which do not like to see stability prevail in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

Damascus Declaration Nations' Meeting Viewed

JN1111193591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 11 Nov 91

["News report" by Ra'id Ahmad on the current meetings in Cairo of the Damascus Declaration states; from the "Spotlights on the News" program]

[Text] The Damascus Declaration, which was signed by the Arab regimes that participated in the 30-state aggression against Iraq, provided for the establishment of a joint Arab security structure in the Arabian Gulf. According to the declaration, the regimes of Syria and Egypt would have put their armies at the disposal of the Gulf rulers, in return for promises of financial aid. However, it has become certain that the agreement is merely ink on paper more than seven months after the signing of the declaration. The Gulf regimes preferred the assistance of American forces and the signing of colonialist military agreements with the U.S. Administration and its Atlantic allies. The Syrian and Egyptian regimes found nothing to save face other than talking about bolstering economic, political, and media cooperation among these states; the idea of military and security cooperation, on the other hand, was abandoned.

In this regard, Ibrahim 'Awf, Egyptian deputy foreign minister for Arab affairs, said that there is no contradiction between the military agreements some of the Gulf regimes signed with the United States, and the Damascus Declaration. This was because the signing of those agreements was a sovereign act on the part of each state. What the Egyptian official did not say, however, was that sovereignty is no longer an important issue as far as the Gulf rulers are concerned. In fact, these rulers are competing in signing military agreements with the U.S. Administration, and in allowing American forces to desecrate Arab lands and waters by holding military exercises and establishing permanent bases.

Plus, while Egyptian and Syrian officials are ignoring the fact of U.S. hegemony over the Arabian Gulf, and continue to bolster their relations with the Gulf regimes, perhaps desiring some financial aid, some of these regimes are not content with relations only with the colonialist Atlantic states; they have begun to build bridges to the Iranian regime.

Different views on the Iranian role in the so-called Gulf security arrangements emerged on the eve of the meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates. In this respect, Egyptian sources told AFP that the Gulf regimes' reservations and willingness to involve the Iranian regime in the security of the Gulf, prompted the regimes that signed the Damascus Declaration to introduce changes preventing a permanent military presence for Egypt and Syria in the Arabian Gulf.

Observers point out with concern the joint statement issued in Tehran yesterday, after the official visit to Iran by the Qatari heir apparent. Iran and Qatar believe that stability and security in the region must be ensured by the Gulf countries. It is clear that this would involve the Iranian regime. The Qatari heir apparent, Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, said earlier that Iran cannot be excluded from any security arrangement in the Gulf. The Egyptian AL-AKHBAR newspaper criticized this statement. In its Monday issue, the paper warned against including Iran in a Gulf security structure, saying that this country aspires to control the Arab region.

It is evident from these opposing viewpoints that what links the Gulf regimes to Syria and Egypt is not an obsession with security. Rather, the common denominator between these states is submission to the U.S. Administration and implementation of its orders.

Knesset Draft Resolution on 'Inseparable' Golan

TA1111171991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] The Knesset has ruled that the Golan Heights, being an inseparable part of the State of Israel, will not be subject to negotiations. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Labor Party joined the coalition factions in submitting the draft resolution in a debate on the Golan Heights. The hawks in the Labor Party joined the resolution, whereas some doves were annoyed with their colleagues who did so, and abstained. Knesset Member Yosi Beilin even went as far as to vote against it.

The draft resolution adds that the Golan Heights constitute an important pillar for Israel and that the government is urged to guarantee resources for their development and for increasing the population there.

In reaction to the Labor Party's joining the coalition proposal, the Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy said that the Labor Party has long lost its way and today lost its remaining shame.

Shamir To Meet Bush on Visit to U.S. Next Week

TA0911194191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] It is believed in Israel that the substance and venue of the next stage of peace negotiations will be finalized in the next few days. In the coming week, the United States is expected to increase its involvement in the mediation between the parties in quest of an accord.

Meanwhile, our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik learned that the U.S. State Department is trying to formulate a package of reciprocal steps within the framework of which the Arabs will be asked to halt the boycott of Israel, call off the intifadah, and possibly even declare a suspension of the state of belligerency with Israel; the granting of aliyah loan guarantees, which have been delayed by the U.S. President, will be announced. Israel will be asked to reciprocate by stopping all settlement activities in the territories.

Prime Minister Shamir and some of his senior aides are leaving for the United States next week, and it is believed that anything remaining unresolved by then will be finalized in the course of the visit, when Shamir is expected to meet with Bush and Baker.

Our correspondent adds that in the coming days, Israel will decide on the composition of its teams to negotiations with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Arab sources said tonight that the bilateral talks between Israel and its neighbors and Israel and the Palestinians will be resumed in Washington at an unknown date between 17 and 22 November. However, our Arab affairs correspondent, Ehud Ya'ari, stresses that it is already obvious at this point that the bilateral talks will be held later than the date specified in the invitations to the Madrid conference—that is, within five days. Israeli sources said that no significance should be attached to this.

Shamir Briefs Cabinet on Talks, Other Issues

On Venue for Direct Talks

TA1011123791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Israel adheres to its demand that the second stage of the peace process, the bilateral talks, be held in the Middle East, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said at the cabinet session this morning. Our political correspondent, Arye Golan, reports that Ministers Sharon and Ne'eman demanded that the prime minister hold a cabinet discussion about autonomy so that the ministers could learn what is being offered to the Arabs. Shamir responded that everything is anchored in the Camp David accords.

Mr. Shamir expressed his assessment that the venue for the direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab delegations would be determined during his U.S. trip.

The government approved the appointment of Binyamin Netanyahu to deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office. Mr. Shamir said that Netanyahu will be in charge of public relations concerning the peace process.

Further on Bilateral Talks

TA1011153991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Nov 91

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] In today's cabinet session, the prime minister picked up where he left off last week, when he began to brief the ministers on the Madrid conference. Today Shamir provided details on the bilateral talks, most of which are already known.

Regarding the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, it was reported that Israel objects to attempts to separate the two parts of the delegation, thereby creating two distinct delegations. The dates for the talks were also discussed in Madrid, and it was stated that the parties agree to sequential talks, without long breaks. We asked the Jordanian-Palestinian delegates to demonstrate realism and to realize that the only issue under discussion at the moment are interim arrangements, Shamir said.

One issue that has not yet been finalized with the Palestinians is the immunity they seek. The Palestinian delegates to the talks requested full diplomatic immunity. Israel responded that it will act fairly within the confines of the law, which is to say that there is no intention of taking advantage of the fact that the representatives live under Israeli rule to interfere with the contacts. At the same time, their official status has not yet been determined.

As for the deliberations with the Lebanese, Shamir said: They did not have a lot of leverage. It was agreed with the Lebanese representatives that an additional meeting will take place in three or four weeks. The Lebanese emphasized in the talks that they are not talking about a peace agreement with Israel at this stage, only the implementation of Resolution 425.

Summing up the talks, the prime minister said that there was a difference between the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, who demonstrated readiness to talk, and the Syrians and the Lebanese, who did not show such readiness. [passage omitted]

Drop in Territories' Unrest Noted

TA1011142091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The cabinet was briefed on the substantial drop in the scope of riots in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that a 30-percent decrease in the volume of unrest activities was noted in Judaea and Samaria and a 40-percent drop in attempted attacks. In Gaza, the riots decreased by 70 percent, but an increase was registered in the number of attacks. [passage omitted]

'Parallel Trend' Inside Green Line

TA1011182391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] A substantial drop in the past week in the scope of disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has been noted. The cabinet was told that disturbances [on the West Bank] decreased by 30 percent and that attempted attacks dropped by 40 percent. In Gaza, the riots shot down by 70 percent, but a rise was noted in the number of attacks.

Inside the Green Line and in Jerusalem there was a parallel trend of a marked decline in disturbances and attempted attacks. In the cabinet session, Minister Milo reported a 30-percent decrease in intifadah events in Jerusalem and inside the Green Line.

PLO Source, Shamir Comment on Continued Talks

TA1111101991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Nov 91 pp A1, 4

[Report by Gay Bekhor, Yerah Tal, and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] The PLO will give the green light to the Palestinian delegation to participate in the Middle East multilateral talks. This was concluded in meetings that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat held in Cairo. A senior PLO source with the Palestinian party in Cairo said in a phone call to HA'ARETZ that the PLO still fears Israel will take advantage of the multilateral talks stage to reach agreements with the Arab countries on the bilateral negotiations and that after it obtains agreements on water and disarmament issues it will cause a freeze of the substantive negotiations on the territories.

The senior Palestinian source, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa exerted heavy pressure on 'Arafat to give his blessing to the multilateral talks. They undertook not to sign any separate regional agreement with Israel if progress is not achieved on the territories issue. 'Arafat and his advisers, including Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and 'Abdallah al-Hurani, are inclined to agree to the Egyptian compromise proposal. Jordan, too, is expected to join the agreement.

The Egyptians explained to the Palestinians that if they join the Syrians, who oppose the convening of the regional conference before Israel withdraws from the territories, they will be viewed as rejectionists of peace. They made it clear to 'Arafat that participation in the conference is in his interest because the talks will be launched in any case, even without Syria and the Palestinians.

On Saturday, Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and the Egyptian foreign minister made it clear that they will participate in the conference even if the Syrians boycott it. Syria and Lebanon announced that they do not intend to come to the regional conference. A few days ago Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad tried to dissuade the PLO and the Palestinians from participating in this conference, but the meeting between leading PLO and Syrian figures in Al-Ladhiqiyah ended in disagreement.

Yerah Tal adds: During yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting Prime Minister Shamir made it clear that Israel will not make the political negotiations conditional on a cessation of intifadah actions. Shamir thus reacted to comments by Ministers Ari'el Sharon and Rehav'am Ze'evi that Israel should make its continued participation in the political talks conditional on a stop to anti-Israeli terrorist activity. "We will carry on with the negotiations and fight terrorism at the same time, but we will not make one thing conditional on the other," the prime minister told them.

Likud elements who are close to Minister Sharon noted this is the first time that the Israeli Government did not make political negotiations conditional on the cessation of anti-Israeli terror. According to these elements, this position, as expressed by the prime minister, runs counter to a decision by the Likud Central Committee 18 months ago which clearly stipulated that Israel will not begin negotiations as long as the intifadah and terrorist activity continue. These elements say that Shamir's position also contradicts the government's basic guidelines. [passage omitted]

Yosi Torpstein adds: [passage omitted] Israel continues to insist that the bilateral and multilateral talks take place in the region, although it has in fact given up on holding them alternately in Israel and in each of the Arab countries concerned. This has been announced by a source in the

Prime Minister's Bureau. Possible venues for negotiations, as far as Israel is concerned, are Rhodes and Cyprus.

Israel is opposed to holding the talks in the United States, explaining that the large distance will make it difficult for the delegation members to consult with the decisionmakers in Jerusalem. The source made it clear that Israel "will not break it all up" if it is ultimately decided that the meetings will take place in the United States.

The assessment in Jerusalem is that the decision on the location of the talks will not be made before 16 November, when Secretary of State Baker returns to the United States from his Far East trip. It is believed the United States will impose a venue on the parties concerned. The Arabs, led by Syria, want the Americans to decide the matter and impose their decision on the parties in order to prove to the world that this is an internationally-sponsored conference and in order to avoid reaching an agreement with Israel at this point.

Levi on Alternate Talks Venues, Syrian Actions

TA1111185291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by parliamentary correspondent Eli Nisan, in Levi's office on 11 November—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Nisan] Mr. Minister, do you think that Israel and the Arab countries participating in the peace process will ultimately reach agreement on the venue and date of the bilateral talks?

[Levi] Certainly, this is a must, there is no other choice. That is why various options are being examined these very days. I believe we will reach an agreement and a meeting will take place.

[Nisan] In view of the emotional outburst we witnessed this week in the West Bank after the return of the Palestinian delegation to the region, is there no fear that illusions in the area will be shattered?

[Levi] What do you mean by shattered illusions? If people are happy with a peace process, is that an illusion or a different reality?

[Nisan] I mean with respect to the future.

[Levi] Why should we lose our self-confidence when the process, the way we have envisioned it, is progressing? This would be masochism, not politics. If you are afraid of a process, you should not launch it; but if you do, you should promote it and wave it as a banner to instill in the hearts of the people that this is the right way. When the government decided to embark on this path, it was totally convinced that its terms had been accepted and that it was treading the right path. So why should illusions be shattered? Whose illusions?

[Nisan] Mr. Levi, you said this week that Syria will be risking itself if it persists in its inflexible line. Is there a danger that Syria might sabotage the political process?

[Levi] I will not analyze what is good or bad for Syria here; I can only offer the analysis, from my point of view and to myself, that Syria's conduct, as shown by its embarking on the peace process and the peace path, indicates that it has weighed what is good and what is not so good for it. This pragmatic thinking has led it to distinguish between a situation in which it could be left solitary and isolated, with all the attendant implications. It will have something to lose. The USSR has been weakened, as everyone knows, and can no longer provide the prop and be the supplier of free goods—massive quantities of weapons. The Arab countries walking the path of peace also worry Syria. As a result, in order not to be left alone, in order not to grow weaker economically as well, and in order not to appear the enemy of peace and suffer the international consequences of this, Syria calculated pragmatically and embarked on the path of peace. I am not saying that by so doing it has become a supporter of peace or the like. It must prove its intentions; it must prove in the negotiations that it wants peace. We will see about this in the future.

Water Resources Not Included in Talks With Arabs

TA1211105991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Nov 91 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] For the time being the multilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs will not deal with arrangements for the allocation of water resources, one of the most important issues as far as Israel, Syria, and Jordan are concerned. Discussion of this issue will be put off until progress is made in the negotiations on borders and security arrangements. This was stated yesterday by a senior government element who is involved in the political process. The committee that will deal with the water issue will then focus only on developing new water sources, mainly the establishment of joint desalination projects. [passage omitted]

Yosef Hadas, the acting director general of the Foreign Ministry, is coordinating the preparations for the multilateral talks in which foreign experts will also participate. Coordination meetings have been held in the past few days among the directors general of about six different government ministries and bodies which are concerned with issues which will be discussed in the multilateral conference. These include the Defense Ministry (responsible for security arrangements and disarmament, which are not likely to be discussed during the first stage); the Energy and Infrastructure and Science and Technology Ministries; the Health Ministry (cooperation on the prevention of plagues); the Ecology and Environmental Protection Ministry; the Agriculture Ministry and its

Water Commission section; the Industry and Trade Ministry; the Tourism Ministry; and the Transportation Ministry. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 12 November, in a page 1 report by Hemi Shalev, writes that "since the conclusion of the Madrid conference the Arab countries have rejected several Israeli proposals for direct, and even secret, contacts aimed at determining the details of the direct negotiations between the countries involved. This was announced yesterday by political sources in Jerusalem who also expressed disappointment with the fact that the United States is not urging the Arab countries to agree to the Israeli proposals on direct contacts for a decision on the venue, date, and other points of the bilateral talks. The sources said that the United States will ultimately have to come up with a proposal of its own on these issues, adding that this creates a pattern of need for U.S. mediation between the parties, a pattern which may also characterize the continued contacts between Israel on the one hand, and Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan on the other."]

Arens Returns After 4-Day Secret Mission

TA0811183191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1805 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that Defense Minister Moshe Arens spent the last four days abroad on a mission shrouded in a cloak of total secrecy. The defense minister was accompanied by several aides from his bureau, including his military secretary and his media adviser. Minister Arens and his aides returned home early tonight.

Four 'Terrorists' Killed in Western Negev Clash

TA1111171391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Four terrorists were killed this morning in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit in the western Negev. The terrorists infiltrated Israeli territory from the Sinai and apparently planned to stage a spectacular attack in Israel. Our correspondent, Roni Sofer, reports from the south:

[Sofer] The clash with the terrorists occurred early this morning on Israeli territory in the western Negev. An IDF unit spotted the four terrorists and opened fire on them. The four terrorists were killed in the ensuing exchanges of fire.

It emerged that the squad entered Israel from Egyptian territory, through the Sinai. They were found in possession of numerous weapons—such as Kalashnikov rifles, magazines, ammunition, and dozens of hand grenades—as well as large sums of money and documents. Judging by the quantity of materiel, it would seem that the terrorists intended to stage a spectacular attack on Israeli soil. At this stage, it is not yet clear to which organization the terrorists belonged.

IDF Spokesman Confirms Deaths

NC1111165291 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 11 (AFP)—Israeli forces on Monday killed four guerrillas who crossed Israel's southern border from Egypt, an army spokesman said here.

The unidentified commandos, armed with automatic weapons and grenades, were intercepted in the western Negev Desert after entering the country from the Sinai, he said, adding that they were killed following a chase on Monday morning.

Complaint Lodged With Egypt

TA1211121691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Israel has complained to Egypt about yesterday's infiltration from the Sinai. Four terrorists who crossed the border into the western Negev area were killed. Senior military sources said that Israel expects the Egyptians to do everything possible to prevent incursions from the territory under their control. It's still not clear to which organization the infiltrators belonged. Egyptian security forces have launched an investigation.

IDF To Restrict Access to Jericho, Delegation

TA0911200891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The Palestinian delegation to the Madrid talks is due to return to Israel via the Jordan bridges tomorrow. Mass receptions are planned in the territories in Jericho, Jerusalem, and Gaza. [passage omitted]

Official Army sources told our territories correspondent Amir Hay tonight that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not prohibit the Jericho residents' reception for the Palestinian delegation, but it will not permit the arrival of other residents of the territories to the Jericho area. [Later in the program "a modification" is read by the announcer, who cites the same sources as saying that "the IDF will not prohibit the reception and the expressions of joy of the residents of Jericho at the arrival of the Palestinian delegation tomorrow morning via the Allenby Bridge, provided the occasion does not turn into a demonstration or an event followed by disturbances." The report adds that "the security forces in the Jericho area estimate that the IDF will limit the number of other residents of the territories arriving at the reception."]

As for the policy on East Jerusalem, our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that following a decision made by the highest echelons, the Israel Police will allow no demonstrations or processions of any kind—either for or against the peace process—to be held there.

'Thousands' Greet Palestinian Delegates

TA101113391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Members of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference returned home this morning via the Allenby Bridge. Although Palestinians in the territories prepared welcoming parties, the security authorities prevented them from reaching the River Jordan crossing point. Instead, the reception was being held in the town of Jericho. Over to Mark Weiss:

[Weiss] Security forces had allowed only a small number of relatives and Jericho residents to come to the Allenby Bridge to greet the Palestinian delegates as they crossed from Jordan. However, the real welcome came a few miles down the road, in Jericho itself. As the bus carrying the delegation traveled slowly through the town, thousands of residents came out to greet them. Many carried olive branches, people cheered and sang, and motorists beeped their horns. The gathering soon developed into a massive nationalist demonstration. The Army were out in force, but they let the celebrations go ahead without interference. Delegation member and Jericho resident Sa'ib 'Urayqat received an extra special welcome. He was carried shoulder high through the streets of the town.

The celebrations went ahead without any major disturbances. Delegation members said little except they thought the Madrid conference had gone very well and they were delighted to be home. They're due to hold a press conference in East Jerusalem at this hour.

Sharon Urges al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Deportation

TA1211160091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon is demanding that Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi be deported from Israel. These people, Sharon argues, were—and still are—the people behind the terror of the intifadah. Sefi Hendler reports:

[Begin recording] [Hendler] The housing and construction minister toured construction sites in Yavne this morning. Emerging from a working session with local town leaders, the minister commented on the political situation. Sharon is demanding that Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi be deported from Israel. We have turned the leaders of terror into legitimate leaders in the eyes of the world, he said.

[Sharon] A few years ago I demanded that these people, who were—and still are—the people behind the terror of the intifadah, be expelled. Unfortunately, my position was not accepted. Had it been accepted, they would have long ago been outside the borders of Eretz Yisra'el—as should have been the case—or behind bars.

[Hendler] Minister Sharon asserted that negotiations on peace should not be conducted with countries that host the headquarters of terror organizations. PLO offices exist in Tunis, Jordan, and Syria, as well as in Egypt, he noted. Sharon added that Syria should stop purchasing arms.

[Sharon] Syria cannot possibly continue arming itself with hundreds of what I would call original Scud missiles with a range of up to 500 km, and continue possessing the third—if not the second—largest chemical arsenal in the world, and at the same time wave an olive branch at us.

[Hendler] Terror does not go hand in hand with olive branches, Sharon noted, and that is why the government must present the Arabs with unambiguous demands. [end recording]

U.S. Said To Encourage Palestinian 'Euphoria'

TA1111102791 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] The euphoria that has swept the Palestinian public is unrealistic, endangering the peace process, and eventually might lead to an outburst of violence and terror in the territories. This comment was made last night by the Prime Minister's Bureau in view of the reception the Palestinian delegation was given upon its return to Israel from the Madrid talks.

The sources accused the United States of "encouraging" the Palestinians to cultivate baseless expectations concerning the outcome of the political negotiations.

According to the sources, the Americans have led the Palestinians to believe that an Israeli withdrawal from the territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state are reasonable options. The Palestinians must realize, the sources said, that no Palestinian state will ever be established. The sources said that, in view of the Palestinians' current mood, they are afraid that the Palestinians will not be able to hold "moderate and rational" negotiations based on Israel's autonomy offer and that their disappointment might be followed by an outburst of violence, terror, and "irrational acts." The sources said that the Palestinians are caught in a "whirlpool." [passage omitted]

Over the past few days, Israel made it clear to the United States that it would allow freedom of movement to the Palestinian representatives for the political negotiations and would "show understanding" for every action taken in this respect. At the same time, Israel has refused to give the Palestinians any form of "immunity" and made it clear that any consideration it would show will be restricted by and in the framework of the Israeli law.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi yesterday called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to examine reports concerning the security services allegedly provided by U.S. security personnel to protect the convoy of the Palestinian representatives traveling from the Jordan River bridges to Jerusalem. Ze'evi said that "it is intolerable" that the Americans should expand the authorities of the security

guards, which are currently restricted to their embassies and consulates. Israel must make it clear to the United States that it is no "colony or protectorate," he said.

Security sources said in response that no arrangement was made with the United States concerning U.S.-supplied security services for the Palestinians. The sources said that it is possible that the U.S. security men mentioned in the reports were accompanying the U.S. consuls, who came to receive the Palestinian delegation.

Largest-Ever Poll Shows Most Favor Land Return

TA0811113691 Tel Aviv TEL AVIV in Hebrew 8 Nov 91 pp 30, 31

["Popular Cross-Section" poll—"The most comprehensive in the history of Israel"—conducted by Na'amat women's organization and Yedi'ot Communications and analyzed by Professor Avi Degani, science director of the Geocartography science research institute]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The joint Na'amat-Yedi'ot Communications "Popular Cross-Section" poll was based on individual interviews of 80,766 men and women from 466 locations throughout Israel and gives an accurate proportional representation to all the types of civilian settlements in Israel and to all the components of Israeli society, broken down into age, religion, demographic background, and socioeconomic status. The poll systematically included all 75 settlements with a population of over 10,000 (except for two Arab settlements of similar size)—each according to its proportional size in the overall Israeli population. These places account for nearly 82 percent of the entire Israeli population. The other, smaller settlements were gauged through the 373 settlements that represent them.

Na'amat volunteers visited close to 4.4 percent of all the families in Israel (Jewish, Muslim, and Druze), interviewing civilians aged 18 and above. The "Popular Cross-Section" provides answers to the questions it posed at the highest level of accuracy acceptable in statistical research, with a maximum margin of error of up to 0.5 percent. This is the most extensive public opinion poll ever conducted in Israel.

Freezing Settlements, Territories, Peace, and Security

Will freezing settlements at this time help promote the peace process? [all tabular results in percentages]

	Definitely Not	Maybe	Definitely	No Opinion on the Issue
Overall state's population	23.0	35.0	36.1	5.9
Jewish population	24.0	36.4	33.7	5.9
Non-Jewish population	12.3	20.3	60.9	6.4

About 71 percent of the population believes that freezing the settlements at this juncture will indeed help, or might help, promote the peace process.

A third of the Jewish population (33.7 percent) believes that freezing the settlements now will help ("definitely") promote the peace process. Another third (36 percent) believes this will "maybe" help promote the process. A fourth of the Jewish population thinks that stopping settlement activity will "definitely not" help promote the peace process.

Among the non-Jewish population, approximately 61 percent state with conviction ("definitely") that freezing settlement will help promote peace, compared to approximately 34 percent of the Jewish population who also think so.

More women (37.1 percent) than men (31.8 percent) state firmly that a settlement freeze will be conducive to the peace process.

In Judaea and Samaria, approximately 38 percent of the Jewish residents think that a settlement freeze will definitely or might help promote the peace process (15 percent said "definitely," 23 percent said "maybe").

Returning Land on the Golan

Is the principle of the possible return of a piece/pieces of land on the Golan in exchange for peace similar to the peace with Egypt acceptable to you?

	No	Yes	No Definite Opinion Yet	Do Not Understand Anything About It
Overall state's population	48.3	31.2	16.6	4.0
Jewish population	51.8	27.4	17.2	3.6
Non-Jewish population	12.0	70.0	10.2	7.8

Approximately 52 percent of the Jewish population of Israel object to the return of territories on the Golan for peace "along the lines of peace with Egypt."

Only close to one-third of the Israeli population is prepared to cede territories on the Golan in return for such peace. Among the population on the Golan Heights, 60.1 percent object to the possibility of returning territories on the Golan, while 23.8 percent said that they are agreeable, in principle, to the possibility of returning territories on the Golan in exchange for peace similar to that with Egypt.

Among residents of the development towns, 58.8 percent object to the possibility of returning territories on the Golan. This is the highest ratio of opposition registered among the Jewish population on this issue.

Returning Territories in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District

Which of the following definitions most accurately describes the way you feel about the territories held by Israel in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District?

	Overall state's population	Jewish population	Non-Jewish population
They are a harmful extra burden and should be gotten rid of as soon as possible	16.2	14.1	37.9
They are a bargaining chip in political negotiations and can be given up totally or in part in exchange for a peace agreement	26.3	26.1	28.1
They are important for Israel's security but parts of them can still be given up in return for a peace agreement	31.8	34.0	8.6
They are essential for Israel's security and may therefore not be given up	11.1	11.9	3.11
They are an inseparable part of Eretz Yisra'el, the people of Israel, and Jewish tradition and must therefore not be given up	8.8	9.5	1.8
There is not a single definition among the above choices that approximates my view closely enough	5.8	4.3	20.5

Some 74 percent of Israel's Jewish citizens think "it is possible to give up" parts of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District in return for a peace agreement.

Some 21 percent believe that no parts of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza should be given up under any circumstances, because these areas are "necessary for Israel's security" or because they "constitute an inseparable part of the people of Israel and Jewish tradition."

A total of 38.4 percent of the Arab urban population (excluding mixed settlements and without the Druze) believes that the territories are an unnecessary and harmful onus that should be dispensed with.

Among the Druze, support for the above view was limited to 24.3 percent.

In the rural settlements as a whole and in Tel Aviv a relatively high rate of support for this view was observed—nearly 17 percent, as against the 14 percent characteristic of the overall Jewish population. [passage omitted]

Hamas Proposes 'Quiet Dialogue' With PLO

TA0811192191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1805 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] This report by our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari is just in: Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has proposed to the PLO an arrangement designed to stop the clashes in the territories between supporters and opponents of the peace talks.

A communique issued by the Hamas leadership in the diaspora states that in view of the recent wave of violence between the Palestinian factions in the territories, a quiet dialogue between the PLO and Hamas must begin at once.

Our correspondent notes that Hamas leaders are worried by the fact that PLO supporters quickly managed to assume control of demonstrations in the Gaza Strip and won the elections for the local chamber of commerce. Our correspondent adds that the Hamas leadership has decided to continue opposing the peace process while avoiding public confrontation.

South Africa's De Klerk, Botha Begin Visit

De Klerk Arrives, Levi Comments

TA1011055791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] The South African president landed in Israel a few minutes ago. Foreign Minister David Levi received him at the airport. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports:

[Begin recording] [Levi] The fact that Israel insisted that changes be made in issues of human nature, which followed from our opposition to apartheid, is very important. President de Klerk made those changes, and our relations and our economic cooperation are regaining momentum. We have similar goals in many areas. The new South African policy is gaining increasing popularity and understanding in Africa. That is why we regard this visit very important. This will be an opportunity to strengthen elements associated with both Israel and South African.

[Eshel] Would you say that this is a different South Africa?

[Levi] Look, this is the same South Africa. It does have a different policy. We have expected this policy and I believe that it is gaining the sympathy of the international community, including Israel. [end recording]

De Klerk Speaks at Arrival Ceremony

MB1211154591 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1018 GMT 10 Nov 91

[By Pierre Claassen, political correspondent]

[Text] Jerusalem Nov 10 SAPA—The state president, Mr F W de Klerk, and his entourage were officially welcomed by Israel's President Hayim Herzog at a moving ceremony held at Jerusalem's Rose Garden on Sunday [10 November]. The South Africans arrived for a three-day official state visit at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport hours earlier after a long flight around, and clipping part of, the bulge of Africa.

Mr de Klerk, his wife Marike, and senior officials were met on the tarmac by the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Mr David Levi, as well as his South African counterpart, Mr Pik Botha, who joined the tour after a visit to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The visitors were then driven to Jerusalem's historic King David Hotel.

The official state welcoming was presided over by President Herzog and his wife. An Israeli Army band played a particularly moving rendition of "Die Stem" and the Israeli national anthem which had Mrs de Klerk and many other South Africans present dabbing away at tears. After inspecting a guard of honour representing the Navy, Air Force and Army, the two presidents and their wives met a line-up of dignatories including the cabinet, opposition leader Shim'on Peres, spritual leaders of all faiths and representatives of friendship associations. The chief rabbi of South Africa, Rabbi Cyril Harris, and a contingent of South African Jewish leaders were also present and welcomed by President Herzog.

In a brief address he said the visit of President de Klerk gave expression to the long-standing friendship between the two countries and its peoples. President de Klerk had also arrived at a challenging and important period following the opening of the Madrid peace conference, he said. "You too have been facing momentous events and decisions. Your courageous and far-sighted policy, and it has already born real and important fruit, has earned admiration and appreciation in all the countries of the world, including Israel.

"Together with many other nations we are following closely and with much gratification the emergence of the new South Africa under your leadership."

After thanking Dr Herzog for the welcome, the state president said he believed a new South Africa would come and that the new South Africa would be as trustworthy a friend "as it has been throughout our histories". He was proud to be accompanied by leaders of the South African Jewish community which had rendered a marvelous service to South Africa and which found it possible to be loyal to their country, South Africa, as well as to Israel and their "nation". "We have come to strengthen our bonds of friendship and to inform you about the dynamic process taking place in our country.

"We have come to see how we can work together in the interests of both our people and we come with understanding for the will of a people to be free and to stand proud in the league of nations.

"We want to strengthen ties in all spheres," he said.

President de Klerk's party then departed for a service at the St Andrew's Church, led by the former chaplain general, General Koos van Zyl. The service is to be followed by a visit to the Holocast martyr's and hero's memorial at Yad V'ashem for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Remembrance Hall.

President and Mrs de Klerk are to be the private lunch guests of the Israeli presidential couple at their official residence Beit Hanassi before President de Klerk returns to the hotel for appointments with the Prime Minister Mr Yitzhaq Shamir and his deputy, Mr Levi, followed by the leader of the opposition, Mr Shim'on Peres. On Sunday night President Herzog will host a state banquet in honour of President de Klerk at Beit Hanassi.

Meets Peres; Attends Dinner

MB1011193691 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1744 GMT 10 Nov 91

[By Pierre Claassen, political correspondent]

[Text] Jerusalem Nov 10 SAPA—South Africa's President F.W. de Klerk was on Sunday described as "one of the two great reformists of our time" by the former Israeli prime minister and leader of the opposition, Mr Shimon Peres.

Mr Peres paid President de Klerk an hour-long visit at his hotel on Sunday evening on the first day of a three-day state visit by the South African head of state. Mr Peres answered a few questions put to him by journalists waiting for him in the hotel lobby after the meeting and said they had discussed reforms in South Africa and the peace process in Israel.

He predicted there may be increased trade between the countries.

Relations between South Africa and Israel had to be seen in a different light with past (?reservations) being lifted because of the changes which had come about in South Africa.

Asked for his opinion of Mr de Klerk, he said he saw him as "one of the two great reformists of our time".

Later, at a state banquet hosted in honour of President de Klerk, the Israeli president, Dr Chaim Herzog, also lavished praise on Mr de Klerk for his reforms.

He referred to Mr de Klerk's promises in his inaugural address when he also said there was but one way to peace and justice and that was the path of reconciliation.

"And indeed the South Africa of today is a different one from that which existed just two years ago.

"The historic breakthrough which you initiated, and which you are following through with admirable originality, boldness and political imagination, represents an irreversible process moving, wonderously and uniquely, in tandem with the revolutionary developments that have occurred in the world in recent years."

His substantial reforms had liberated South Africa from isolation and opened up new horizons that simply did not exist before Mr de Klerk rose to power, said Dr Herzog.

Meets Herzog; Speaks at Reception

TA1011090991

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0805 GMT on 11 November begins a live broadcast from Jerusalem's Rose Garden of the reception ceremony for South Africa's President Frederik Willem de Klerk. Correspondent Yitzhaq Feller opens the broadcast describing de Klerk viewing the honor guard while the Army orchestra plays the Israeli and the South African national anthems. Feller names several of the Israeli dignitaries present, including President Hayim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levi, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, and Ministers Ari'el Sharon, Moshe Arens, Yitzhaq Peretz, Roni Milo, and other officials.

President Herzog begins his greetings at 0812 GMT in English, with Feller's translation into Hebrew superimposed. Herzog welcomes de Klerk on the "first visit by a South African president in Israel, which expresses the great friendship between the two countries." Thanking him for maintaining close ties with Israel, Herzog says that the relations "have born real and important fruit." The Israeli president notes the world's and Israel's sympathy for the new steps in South Africa home policy."

At 0815 GMT, de Klerk responds by saying he is pleased to be here and thanks his hosts for the "wonderful reception." He notes that he is accompanied by a "strong contingent of South Africans of Jewish origin," and voices his "wish to reiterate the bonds of friendship which have bound our two countries together for so long." De Klerk wishes to inform the Israelis of the dynamic processes in his country, saying that "there will be a new South Africa, and we are determined that the new South Africa will remain a friend of Israel." He notes that during his visit "matters of bilateral interest" will be discussed and that this visit is a "part of the return of South Africa to the international community." He says that he will seek ways to promote the relations between the two countries, noting his pride with the Jewish community in South Africa which has managed to be "loyal to their country, the Republic of South Africa, and to be loyal to their homeland, Israel."

At 0820 GMT, de Klerk ends his address and the live relay ends.

Economic Agreement Signed

TA1111121191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Nov 91 p A3

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] Israel will invite South African black leader Nelson Mandela for an official visit in Jerusalem, reliable Foreign Ministry sources have said.

This step will be taken in view of criticism leveled at Israel by circles in the black communities of South Africa and the United States for cultivating ties and dialogue with the white government while having very little contact with the black leaders, mainly with members of the African National Congress, the ANC.

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha and Foreign Minister David Levi yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding of economic cooperation between Israel and South Africa. After the ceremony, Minister Levi said that Israel hopes to cooperate with all South African elements.

According to Levi, Israel's relations with South Africa do not come at the expense of anybody else. "We have a long history of correct relations with the current government. We hope to have an open and possibly friendly dialogue with the black population. The Zulu king and representatives were here, and we will continue our contacts with all the other elements," Levi said.

The foreign minister also addressed himself to the declared positions of the Mandela-led ANC and the ANC-PLO contacts: "Obviously we expect them to understand that standing up against Israel and making negative declarations about it is contributing nothing to themselves, to Israel, or to the new atmosphere the whole world is sharing." At the same time, Levi said: "We disqualify or reject no one."

Answering a correspondent's question on whether Israel intends to invite Mandela in the future, Levi said: "We are dealing with this. I hope that all that we do will yield fruit."

According to him, "we hope that a dialogue of understanding will be everybody's guideline."

A senior Foreign Ministry source said that Israel is expecting Mandela and his men to change their attitude toward Israel in view of the Madrid conference and to

express more balanced positions, which could ease the rapprochement between the two parties.

In the Foreign Ministry there is disagreement on whether the time is right to invite Mandela to Israel. Those who oppose the move note that for as long as the ANC adheres to its one-sided policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its pro-PLO stands, Israel should not invite Mandela for an official state visit.

Those who oppose the move mention the visit here by Nobel Prize laureate Desmond Tutu, who took advantage of it to disgrace the Israeli Government. [passage omitted]

De Klerk, Botha View Agreement

TA1111155391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] South African President F. W. de Klerk toured Jerusalem and Bethlehem this morning. He is meeting at this hour with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. This report from Dani Gur-Arye:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] De Klerk and his entourage were led on a walking tour of Jerusalem's Old City. In the Jewish Quarter, the South African president and his wife were offered beer by a local restaurant owner. The two sipped politely and moved on. De Klerk was asked about the trade agreement signed this morning between the two countries.

[De Klerk] An agreement was signed this morning which will broaden cooperation in many fields, which lays the foundation for further cooperation. There is already good, active trade between our two countries, but I believe it can be expanded. And then, of course, we have a very large Jewish community in South Africa.

We are also politically interested in what is happening in the Middle East. We want to understand it. We did not come here to interfere or to prescribe. And likewise, the rest of the world and also Israel, is interested in what is happening in South Africa and in southern Africa, because in southern Africa we will have a developing market. We're going to have, sometime or another, something not like the European Community, but some cooperation between about 11 [or] 12 states in southern Africa, and we expect very important developments there and great economic growth, once we've solved our political problems.

[Gur-Arye] At the Western Wall, de Klerk donned a skullcap and was blessed by the rabbi of the wall.

The South African leaders also visited the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Upon leaving the church, they were approached by Bethlehem's Mayor Ilyas Frayj. Frayj invited de Klerk to meet with him, saying such a meeting would have positive repercussions in the Arab world. De Klerk declined to meet with Frayj; he said his busy schedule did not permit it. Frayj met instead with Foreign Minister Pik Botha. [end recording]

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha says the reports of nuclear cooperation between his country and Israel are the figments of someone's imagination. He was speaking this morning, after he and Foreign Minister David Levi signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in trade, science, the arts, and other fields. Botha told reporter Jack Katzenell that the agreement—because it is open and aboveboard—should put paid to allegations about secret military deals between the two countries.

[Begin recording] [Botha] It will now be obvious that there is not a word about any military cooperation, or cooperation in any military field. So, I would hope that those who have up to now forever been trying to see something dark or devious in the relations between the countries will now, once and for all, shut up and just accept that these are the matters that we have dealt with in the past and that we will be concentrating on in the future, and I also believe these are the matters that the civilized world will have to give their attention to.

[Katzenell] Do you feel a sense of injustice when people talk about secret military deals, or even nuclear cooperation?

[Botha] It is not so much injustice as it is unfair—but it is the same thing, maybe. It is unfair, if it isn't true. In '87, it was decided no new contracts that could be interpreted as military cooperation; the existing ones of the time—'87—to be allowed to run their course and to be fulfilled, and that is it. I am seeking exactly the same good relations with my Arab friends and we're making progress with the improvement of our relations with Muslim countries.

[Katzenell] So, that report about some explosion in the South Atlantic and nuclear cooperation between Israel and South Africa was untrue?

[Botha] It is the figment of the imagination of someone. [end recording]

De Klerk Meets Shamir 11 Nov

TA1111145491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] South African President F.W. de Klerk conferred this afternoon with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. After the meeting, which lasted more than an hour, de Klerk said that Shamir briefed him on the situation in the Middle East and on plans for negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. The two also discussed events in South Africa. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 11 November adds that Shamir told de Klerk: "I think that there will soon be news regarding the venue of the bilateral talks."]

Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that after the meeting, de Klerk left for Bar-Ilan University, where he will receive an honorary doctorate. This evening, de Klerk will host President Hayim Herzog, and tomorrow he will tour the Christian holy sites in northern Israel.

Shamir, De Klerk Reject Intervention

TA1111152091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the tiny land of Eretz Yisra'el cannot contain two states and that no Palestinian state will be established here. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister said this during a meeting with South African President de Klerk. Mr. Shamir stressed that we do not think at all about territorial concessions. He claimed that Israel is minuscule and we need the necessary minimum stretch of land.

The prime minister asked his guest whether the United States and Europe are involved in the negotiations toward giving blacks in South Africa a role in government. President de Klerk responded that his country is sovereign and would not accept international intervention in domestic affairs. Mr. Shamir commented by saying that indeed the involvement of foreign elements is sometimes futile even where Israel is concerned. The prime minister emphasized that we alone will make decisions involving our future and sovereignty.

Pik Botha Meets Bethlehem Mayor

MB1111132691 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] South African Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha has reassured Palestinians that South Africa wants to deal with Israel and the Arab world in a nonpartisan way. He was addressing the Palestinian mayor of Bethlehem and his town councillors after a visit by President F.W. de Klerk to the Church of the Nativity, which is built on the traditional site of Christ's birth.

Military Denies Soldier Held by Hizballah

TA1011094591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Nov 91 p A3

[By military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Senior military sources last night denied Lebanese reports that Ya'aqov Samartisti [name as published], an Israeli soldier serving with the Nahal Brigade, is being held prisoner by Hizballah. [passage omitted]

Army sources said the reports were totally unfounded and noted that the soldier—who went AWOL for a few days and was staying at home—had been located by the Army.

In view of the reports about his capture, Army officers asked Samartisti's family to check how Hizballah got hold of his personal papers. They believe the papers were either lost or stolen.

The army will today conduct a thorough debriefing in the presence of the soldier, who is a resident of Petah Tiqva and serves in a rear area Nahal Brigade unit.

IDF, Hizballah Activities in Southern Lebanon

IDF Denies Planes Bombed Orphanage

TA0811180891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has rejected reports that Israel Air Force planes bombed an orphanage in Lebanon yesterday. Official military sources told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the bombed target was a Fatah-'Arafat operational base from which terrorist squads used to be sent into Israel. The military sources said no civilians were hurt in the raid.

Hizballah-Planted Bombs Detonated

TA1111054791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] In the security zone of south Lebanon, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit on routine patrol in the eastern sector yesterday detonated a number of large explosive devices. No one was hurt and there was no damage.

Over the past weeks there has been a spate of incidents involving explosive charges set off by remote control. The perpetrators, in most cases, are believed to be Hizballah fundamentalists.

SLA Continues Shelling

TA1111105091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] reported that last night and this morning the SLA [South Lebanese Army] directed tank and mortar fire at the village of Haddathah north of the security zone. Six of the village residents were wounded, three of them critically. Irish UNIFIL soldiers evacuated the wounded under fire to a hospital in Tyre.

Three people were wounded by SLA fire in the village of Haris last night. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht adds that a 13-year-old youth of the village of 'Alman on the border of the security zone was killed yesterday upon lifting a Kalashnikov which he found in a field. The booby-trapped rifle was loaded with about 20 kg of explosives. The SLA command accuses Hizballah of preparing this death trap.

Three More Iranians Apprehended Crossing Border

TA0811143891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Three more Iranian nationals were apprehended while crossing the border from Jordan into Israel north of Elat last night. Our correspondent Yehudit Silbersterin reports that a total of 12 Iranians have now been detained while crossing the border into Israel. One Iranian national was killed about a week ago after crossing the border.

The Iranians said they had been members of the mojahedin, which operates against the Iranian regime out of

Iraq, but they quit in the wake of the organization's support for Baghdad during the Gulf war. They asserted that about 200 former mojahedin members had been incarcerated in Kirkuk, and some time later were transferred to a detention camp near the Jordanian border. They said they had managed to escape from the camp, cross into Jordan, and then to Elat. They added that many former mojahedin members intend to flee to Israel to ask for political asylum.

Jordanians Return Youths Who Crossed Border

TA1211113091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Jordanian authorities a short while ago returned two Israeli youths, who last week tried to reach Petra. The two are 'Eran Qoren, 19 years old from Tiberias, and 'Ali Mubarak Tahir, 21, from Kafr Kanna. They were brought back over the Allenby Bridge crossing and are now being questioned by the Negev region investigators.

Reporters say the boys appeared exhausted. 'Eran Qoren cried and apologized to his mother for causing distress.

Indian Supply of Nuclear Reactor to Iran Viewed

'Sources' Express 'Serious Fear'

TA1111104191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Excerpt] An Indian newspaper published in Bombay yesterday reported that India will supply Iran a nuclear reactor next month.

Quoting reliable sources, the newspaper wrote that the reactor will have 10 megawatts of power and that it will serve for scientific research purposes. At the same time, it reports that the reactor will be able to produce plutonium, used in the production of nuclear weapons.

The paper also reported that all the discussions and plans concerning the reactor were classified as "a state secret" in Iran and India. The Indian Center for Atomic Energy refused to confirm the report.

Authoritative sources in Israel expressed serious fear over the reports about the Iranian efforts to develop nuclear power. The sources stressed that on more than one occasion Iran has stated that it would provide all of its military might for the Arabs to destroy the State of Israel. [passage omitted]

Clarification Sought From India

TA1211121091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Nov 91 p A2

[By Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] There is no confirmation in Israel that India is about to supply a 10-megawatt nuclear research reactor to Iran. This was the reaction in Jerusalem to a report, which was published in a paper in Bombay the day before yesterday.

The Indian paper reported that the Iranian and Indian Governments had lately concluded this secret deal. At the same time, a political source in Jerusalem noted that Israel will ask for clarifications from the Indian Government "through diplomatic channels."

Authoritative elements in Israel expressed apprehension about the new reports on Iran's efforts to develop nuclear weapons. The reactor in question is defined as a research reactor indeed, but it can be used for the production of plutonium, a substance used in the production of nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Levi on Next Phase of Talks, Consulates in USSR

TA1111144291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi says that multilateral talks will start in Europe at the end of this month or early next month. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Japan, Canada, and representatives of the EC will also be invited.

Minister Levi also reported that the USSR ambassador to the United Nations and the presidents of the Ukraine, Latvia, and Lithuania have promised to support the repeal of the resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The foreign minister pointed out that his ministry plans to open consulates general outside Moscow. Thus, consulates will be inaugurated in St. Petersburg and Kiev as well as in Tashkent and Alma-Ata. Israel is likewise apparently planning to open an embassy in Riga to represent its interests in the three Baltic republics.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 11 November adds that Levi "also announced that El Al will operate direct flights to Tel Aviv from St. Petersburg and Moscow." Levi further reported that "Israel and Angola will establish full diplomatic relations by year's end and that the ambassador in Tokyo will double as nonresident ambassador in Mongolia."]

High-Ranking PRC Delegation Due To Visit

TA1011095091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Nov 91 p 1

[By political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] A delegation of PRC Foreign Trade Ministry high-ranking officials is due in Israel within the next few days to hold talks with Foreign Ministry and Industry and Trade Ministry officials in a bid to promote bilateral trade relations.

Foreign Ministry sources in Jerusalem said that the visit is part of a comprehensive program designed to strengthen relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri on Bilateral, Multilateral Talks

JN0911184991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1732 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri by radio correspondent Randah Habib in Amman on 9 November—recorded]

[Text] [Habib] Mr. Prime Minister: Now that the Madrid meetings have concluded, what will be Jordan's position if Syria decides to walk out of bilateral negotiations? Will it continue the negotiations or walk out?

[Al-Masri] There are no pieces of evidence or signs to this effect. I believe that this question is hypothetical, especially since the first phase of the Madrid conference tackled the general, basic lines agreed upon by the cosponsors, the USSR and the United States, and participating countries; namely, the Arab countries, the Palestinians, and Israel. The next phase, which is the phase of bilateral talks, has not yet started. Besides, difficult issues have not been raised. The first session of the bilateral talks held in Madrid tackled only bilateral issues. In addition to this, I would like to say that we are proceeding to the conference—and this has been our approach from the outset—with the aim of realizing a just and comprehensive peace. We are well aware that Israel will place obstacles and difficulties in the way of this conference. Hence, I do not think that it is plausible to think of a possible Syrian walk-out of the conference right now.

[Habib] Mr. Prime Minister: Jordan has repeatedly affirmed that it will participate in the multilateral negotiations despite the fact that Syria and the Palestinians reject this at this stage. Has the Jordanian position remained unchanged?

[Al-Masri] The differences over the multilateral talks are differences over timing only, and not over the principle of convening these talks. The Syrian brothers believe that these talks must be postponed. As a matter of fact, the Palestinian position is not as you have depicted it. Hence, I cannot say that there is a basic difference between the Palestinians and Jordan with regard to the timing of the multilateral talks.

[Habib] With regard to Jordan, do you think that holding the multilateral talks at an early date will help render the peace negotiations a success?

[Al-Masri] Yes, we believe this to be true for many reasons. First, we want the multilateral talks to support our position in the conference, which will discuss bilateral issues. Second, the role of the international conference has been obscured. This conference was confined to a limited role played during the days in which it was convened in Madrid. There was no true and continuous international representation at the first conference. We believe that the multilateral talks will make up for this deficiency and meet our basic demand, which calls for the convocation of an international conference. In the multilateral talks, the United States, the USSR, European countries, the six Arabian Gulf states, the Arab Maghreb Union states, and perhaps, Japan, Canada, France, and Britain will sit at the negotiating table continuously, not to mention the parties concerned.

This conference, with this structure and with this international presence, will bolster the Arab position. Therefore, we want this conference to convene so that nobody will say that all that is taking place in the Arab-Israeli arena is only direct talks.

[Habib] With respect to direct negotiations and in case bilateral negotiations succeed, when will the Israeli withdrawal take place from the occupied part of Jordanian territory; and has Amman submitted, or does it intend to submit, a specific schedule for such a withdrawal?

[Al-Masri] Such matters will be discussed when the bilateral talks take place. As yet, they have not been held. But it goes without saying that Jordan will ask for the withdrawal from this territory which Israel has occupied over many years extending from the fifties until now. In this respect, however, I would like to affirm that the Jordanian agenda at these talks will not be confined to territory alone. In addition to bilateral matters, we have close links with the Palestinian issues and with what will be submitted on the Palestinian side. We will always keep in mind and insist on discussing the issue of settlements, because the continued establishment of settlements at this rate means an immediate threat to Jordanian national security. We will coordinate with our Palestinian brothers on this subject, and I believe there are other issues, such as water, which the Jordanian side will raise.

[Habib] Mr. Prime Minister, can you be specific concerning the area of the occupied Jordanian territory?

[Al-Masri] It does not exceed 400 square km.

[Habib] In the north?

[Al-Masri] Yes, there is a small area in the northern part of Jordan near the previous [Rottenberg] project, and also in the south toward the Dead Sea and Wadi 'Araba.

[Habib] Mr. Prime Minister, do you suggest many cities for hosting the bilateral negotiations. Which of the proposed cities to host these talks does Jordan prefer, knowing that names such as Washington, Williamsburg, Cyprus, Turkey, and other places have been mentioned?

[Al-Masri] We would prefer that the conference continue in Madrid. Since no agreement on this was reached, however, I believe that Washington is the best place. It seems that the approach is to convene the conference in its second stage in Washington.

[Habib] A few days ago, Khalid al-Hasan called for the establishment of a confederal union between Jordan, Palestine, and Israel, or a Palestinian-Israeli confederation in accordance with the Swiss model. What is Jordan's stand on this proposal?

[Al-Masri] It is obvious that Khalid al-Hasan's statement represents a personal opinion. I cannot discuss it further now. But in a general manner, we believe that it is suitable for the Arab negotiators to devote their attention to basic issues. I cannot discuss the distant future unless there is something that has an appropriate platform and can be implemented. Israel has not told us, as yet, that it accepts that the land it occupies is an occupied land, and that it agrees to withdraw. The Arab negotiator should not disperse his ideas and his proposals at this time. He should focus his attention on the basic and important objectives.

[Habib] Is the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation acceptable to Jordan?

[Al-Masri] This is another thing that has a historical background and a real framework and that has been proposed in the Palestinian and Jordanian arenas. In principle, it has been accepted by the Jordanian Government.

[Habib] Mr. Prime Minister: Let us talk about domestic affairs. Your government faced opposition represented by a memorandum signed by 49 deputies. Today, on the eve of the convening of the parliament, what steps are you going to take to confront the opposition? Is there any intention of reshuffling or forming a government before that session? What is the extent of dialogue with parliamentary blocs?

[Al-Masri] I am seriously and sincerely trying to put the parliament-government situation in order, and we are moving toward a new session that will begin in less than three weeks. The country needs political and governmental stability. As you said, there is a signed memorandum, and as prime minister I cannot ignore it. Therefore, I have begun my consultations with the various parliamentary blocs in order to reach, if we can, some kind of understanding or formula through which the government can continue on a broad basis and a realistic, specific political trend, especially in these days. There are different opinions among the blocs. Some have political motives, and others have economic and other motives. I am trying to consider all these opinions to see if we can reach an understanding and get the government to implement its program on a broad parliamentary basis. If that leads to a cabinet reshuffle, we will carry it out. Otherwise, we will have to find other ways and solutions.

[Habib] Mr. Prime Minister: Jordan is facing big financial difficulties, especially in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Have you asked for the cancellation of part of the kingdom's debts? How much is expected in international aid?

[Al-Masri] We have tried with many states to cancel our foreign debt. In fact, it was an initial attempt. But we have found out that creditor states reject the principle of the cancellation of Jordan's foreign debts. This does not mean that we will stop attempts. But there is a gap in the Jordanian balance of payments, estimated approximately at $1.8 billion. This gap should be covered in one way of another. We hope that through our talks with the Paris Club, we will reschedule Jordan's foreign debts for the year 1992, which are estimated at approximately $600 million. The remaining $1.2 billion should be covered by increasing Joranian trade activity and exports and reducing imports through easy and soft loans and grants. A long time ago, we began efforts with financing foreign states—like Japan, Canada, and the EC—to get these loans and grants. When we improve Jordanian-Arab relations, especially with our neighbors like Saudi Arabia, we will improve the Jordanian balance of payments because many Jordanian goods were sold in the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia. Increasing exports to these countries will narrow that gap. So, improving Arab-Jordanian relations will greatly help Jordan economically. This is what we are seeking.

[Habib] Thank you Mr. Prime Minister.

AFP Reports Additional Remarks

NC0911194091 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Amman, Nov 9 (AFP)—Washington is the "most suitable" venue for the resumption of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks, Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri said here Saturday. He also told AFP that his country would attend multilateral talks scheduled to take place November 12, 10 days after the start of the bilateral negotiations. [passage omitted]

A reliable source here Friday said the talks will resume in Washington on November 22. There has been no confirmation from the U.S. State Department. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri said he did not expect Syria to pull out from the peace process as "substantial questions capable of triggering a rift between Israel and Syria have not been examined." He also predicted that the United States would not resume an official dialogue with the PLO because "Israel could use this as a pretext to boycott the peace negotiations."

Officials, Others React to University Blast

Interior Minister

NC0811154491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Nov 91

[News conference by Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib in Beirut on 8 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Khatib] You are all aware of what happened at American University today. What happened there is a ridiculous message designed to obstruct reconciliation and peace in Lebanon. We are here not only to condemn and denounce this incident but to adopt a stand. What happened will only increase our determination to continue the march, regardless of the consequences. Whoever believes that the arena is empty is mistaken.

We shall bear all our responsibilities and follow this issue in every detail. You are aware that the explosion and the way it was carried out is not a simple thing. We will not be lenient, nor will we procrastinate in this respect. Investigations into this incident, which we regard as an aggression against Lebanon, Lebanon's people, Lebanon's children, and Lebanon's scientific, cultural and civil heritage has begun. We believe the perpetrator of this act, though it resulted in no loss of human life, is an enemy of Lebanon.

Our security organs began pursuing the issue on all levels this morning. I cannot now tell you when we will apprehend the perpetrator but my pledge to you is that we will continue our efforts until we find and amputate the hand that did it. We and all our brothers who are working with us and supporting us denounce this act. We need not reiterate our stand. We are fully aware of the meaning of the message. We affirm to all that Lebanon will never again be an arena for wars and settling scores. [passage omitted]

[Question] One thing remains unclear. Was it a car, an explosive, or what?

[Al-Khatib] The information we have thus far confirms that the explosion took place within a car, probably a Volkswagen. The explosive that was placed in this car weighed between 70 and 80 kg. It is probable that the culprit entered the campus from the seafront gate. [passage omitted]

[Question indistinct]

[Al-Khatib] All necessary security measures have been taken in the places we think might be attacked. There is no cause for fear. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr. Minister, what is the extent of the link between today's explosion and the attack on the U.S. Embassy two weeks ago?

[Al-Khatib] Thus far, we cannot say that the two incidents were carried out by the same culprit. We have important clues in this respect. It is not in our interest to reveal these clues. It might transpire that it is the same party or two completely different parties. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr. Minister, are you in touch with the university trustees regarding the incident?

[Al-Khatib] I was at the university at 0500 today. We contacted Dr. Ibrahim al-Salti in the United States and I asked him to convey a message from me to the university trustees on the stand of the Lebanese Government and authorities on this terrible criminal act.

[Question indistinct]

[Al-Khatib, in English] First of all we refuse this style of messages completely and we believe it represents, somehow, a message to make an obstacle against the peace conference and the reconciliation in Lebanon and peace also in Lebanon. Our reaction, first of all, we will continue our inquiries and our investigations. Second, we are determined to continue and to respect our principles and our position toward the peace conference and the peace in Lebanon.

Defense Minister

NC0811155691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] At 1600 today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi inspected the American University building that was the target of a violent explosion at dawn today in which one person was killed and 13 others wounded.

In another development, the security meeting held under the chairmanship of Defense Minister Michel al-Murr and attended by senior Lebanese and Syrian security officials ended at 1600 today.

After the meeting, Minister al-Murr said that the discussions dealt with the available details on the bombing and the ongoing investigations into it in addition to the security measures that have been taken to protect the national and security institutions.

Minister al-Murr said that the available information indicates that one person was killed and 13 others wounded in the incident.

Minister al-Murr denied any link between the American University explosion and the incident that took place at the U.S. Embassy campus 10 days ago when the embassy was hit by a rocket that caused property damage.

More 'Setbacks' Expected

NC0811181891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] AFP has reported that the fundamentalist groups opposed to the Madrid conference are the main suspects in the explosion at the American University of Beirut [AUB]. These groups repeatedly declared that they will target U.S. interests in an attempt to undermine the negotiations. The agency quoted a Lebanese Army source as saying that there is a link between today's explosion at AUB and the firing of a rocket at the U.S. Embassy on 29 October. The source said choosing to blow up an empty building at night shows that those who planned the explosion wanted to avoid casualties.

An informed security source has told our radio that the competent authorities told officials that they now expect security setbacks in Beirut and other areas.

Meanwhile, the explosion left two dead, including university employee Munir Salihah, and six wounded, and caused property damage of approximately $125 million.

Lebanese Forces

NC0811151091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Commenting on the bombing of the American University of Beirut building, a Lebanese Forces source said the following:

The Lebanese Forces strongly denounce this criminal act against a great cultural and educational institution, targeting with it the march of security and stability in Lebanon. The fact that this explosion occurred in the heart of Greater Beirut demonstrates the great limitations of the security measures taken by the concerned security departments and the Lebanese Government's laxity in implementing the cabinet's decisions. This has created security gaps in some areas that have been exploited by some people to sabotage peace and return Lebanon to the era of chaos, darkness, and ignorance.

Out of their concern for security and stability and for the restoration of the economic life cycle, the Lebanese Forces urge the Lebanese Government and its security departments to take stringent measures to control the situation and end all abnormal conditions.

Hizballah Denies Responsibility

NC0911081191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Numerous accusations have been leveled at Iranian-backed groups and sides opposed to the peace conference for the bombing of the American University of Beirut [AUB]. Hizballah, however, has denied responsibility for the attack. Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said he believes the destruction of the AUB building is a prologue to an effort to undermine the opposition. He added: Such action is not our style, and blowing up a building will not undermine our resistance.

'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah pointed his finger accusingly at intelligence agencies—local, Israeli, or international—saying they could have masterminded the explosion, aiming to reshuffle the deck and create an atmosphere that could undermine the security situation and once again ignite political and security problems in Lebanon.

The Arab Revolutionary Platoons have denied their involvement in the blast at the AUB building. In a telephone call to AFP by an individual claiming to be a spokesman, the group blamed the Israeli intelligence service for the explosion, saying the purpose was to distort the image of the true strugglers against capitulation to the United States and Israel. [passage omitted]

A security source said two armed men killed a Syrian soldier near the university building before the explosion.

'Islamic Source' Denies Involvement

NC0911092091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Excerpt] An Islamic source has stated that Islamic groups had nothing to do with the bombing yesterday morning at the American University of Beirut [AUB]. The source said this action was staged by Israeli intelligence and internal agents. He said the aim of this action was to shatter the internal political and security situation and to divert people's attention from the repeated Israeli attacks in the south and western al-Biqa'.

Hizballah's information and guidance department believes the bombing to be a cheap maneuver through which the perpetrator is trying to divert attention from Israel's aggression in the south, such as its shelling of villages and displacement of area residents.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din [deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council] condemned the attack on American University, saying he believes that Israel is the ultimate beneficiary from these actions in its war against Lebanon. He said he hoped this destructive action would not affect the will and courage of university officials, and called on them to continue showing determination to spread their educational message. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Leader: U.S. 'Agents'

NC1111083091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi has said that a new war is looming on Lebanon's horizon and that people are trying to blame it on the Islamic resistance. We notice, he said, that Israel is concentrating its statements on Hizballah, saying that Hizballah is creating all the problems in the south.

His eminence noted that the enemies have used all possible means at their disposal, even bombing the American University of Beirut [AUB]. The attack was carried out by America's agents, al-Musawi said, to push Hizballah into a corner so that the public would see Hizballah as a saboteur and agree to fight it.

This is what is happening in the land of the intifadah, the Hizballah leader said, where the heroes are being confronted by 'Arafat's group, which entered al-Aqsa Mosque and beat the worshipers with axes and stones. This shows that the conspiracy against the Islamic world has increased, he added. This conspiracy is being patronized by the two giants and the dumb demons in the Arab world, he added.

We must understand why everyone is concentrating so much on Hizballah, he noted, asking: Is it because Hizballah spreads a revolutionary influence in the entire Islamic world? The conspiracies to harass us will increase, he said.

We are all duty bound to fight the battle because we are the nation of martyrdom and we will not stop our jihad even if we are surrounded, he concluded.

Visiting Iranian Official

LD1111071791 Tehran IRNA in English 0621 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 11, IRNA—A senior Iranian official Sunday condemned the Thursday night explosion at American University in Beirut and held the Zionist regime responsible for the act of sabotage.

Director General for the Arab-North African Affairs of the Foreign Ministry Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Javad Khonsari told reporters in Sidon that the Zionist regime had a hand in all sabotage activities at cultural centers.

Khonsari said he is visiting Lebanon to express support of the Islamic Republic and the leadership for the resistance of Muslims in southern Lebanon.

PLO Office in Beirut To Reopen 'Soon'

NC1111071991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Press reports indicate the PLO office in Lebanon will reopen soon and that contacts at the Arab level are under way on the issue. The reports add that PLO Executive Committee member Shafiq al-Hut will be in charge of the Beirut office.

Hizballah Group To Try Captured Israeli Soldier

NC0811213691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] The Hizballah-Palestine group has sent to a Lebanese newspaper a photograph it said is that of an Israeli soldier named Ya'qub Samir Isqi whom Israel denies is missing. The photograph was attached to the soldier's identity card. The group claimed it seized the soldier last month.

The statement said that the group will stage a field trial for the soldier because of his confessions, which include the killing of some Palestinians.

Reports on Continued Israeli Shelling of South

Firing Continues 8 Nov

NC0911065191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] The shelling of villages near the security strip in the south continued last night. The villages of Yatar and Kafra were shelled. Earlier last night some 40 shells and flares were fired on the villages of Bra'shit, Qabrikha, and Haddathah.

Artillery Fire Reported 9 Nov

NC0911165291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli forces resumed their shelling of populated areas in the south today. Occupation artillery bombarded Kafr Rumman and surrounding areas this afternoon, causing several fires there.

According to reports from the south, an Israeli foot patrol consisting of 15 troops advanced from 'Ali al-Tahir toward Tuhrah.

Report on 10 Nov Incidents

NC1011135291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli occupation forces have continued their attacks on the south, shelling the hills east of Kafr Rumman with artillery this morning as an Israeli force combed the fields surrounding the village. The occupation forces set up new posts near Tuhrah and continued their activity at night, firing scores of flares over Kafr Rumman and its environs.

His eminence Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan visited Kafr Rumman today. In a speech, he hailed the resoluteness of its people and called on them to adhere to their land despite the authorities' negligence and incompetence.

Six Wounded 11 Nov

NC1111093191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Six citizens were wounded by Israeli shelling of Haddathah. Ten heavy-caliber shells hit the town last night.

An Irish source in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon deployed in the area reported that the shells were fired from inside the occupied border strip.

[Paris AFP in English at 0843 GMT on 11 November in a similar report adds: "Early Monday the South Lebanese Army [SLA] used explosives to destroy the home of a Hizballah official in southern Lebanon, the militia's Voice of the South radio reported.

["The radio did not identify the name of the fundamentalist leader nor where the attack took place but said the owner had fled his home several days ago.

["A regional security source said the attack was carried out by five SLA militiamen in al-Qantarah, a village on the northern outskirts of the central sector of the zone."]

Other Activity Reported

NC1211090291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Yesterday afternoon, occupation forces used 155-mm artillery to shell the town of Tulin, damaging property and houses.

Recent arrivals from the occupied strip report that the enemy built two military roads yesterday and the day before, one linking al-Qantarah to al-Tayyibah, the other linking al-Tayyibah to Dayr Siryan.

In addition, occupation forces have blown up houses in liberated areas. The blew up three houses in Haddathah, al-Qantarah, and (Mazra'at al-Ahmadiyah) after having blown up a house in Yuhmur in al-Shaqif a few days ago. [passage omitted]

Information from the south indicates that occupation forces have established a new position overlooking Kafr Rumman between Tuhrah and al-Dabshah and reinforced it with tanks, two of which were seen moving near the position this morning.

Security sources report that two nights ago a joint enemy and agent force advanced from their positions on Niqar Qawkaba hill to (Mazra'at al-Ahmadiyah), located between occupied Kawkaba and liberated Qilya. They searched some houses and blew up Ahmad Salim 'Isa's house.

(Mazra'at al-Ahmadiyah) has been deserted for three years now. Occupation forces in Kawkaba fired a number of rockets and spread machine-gun fire in the direction of Jabal al-Dahr for approximately 30 minutes at dawn today.

French Envoy Expects Christmas Hostage Release

NC0811144591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] French Ambassador Daniel Husson today denounced Israeli attacks on the children's nursery in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp and villages in the south. He also said that he expects the foreign hostages in Lebanon to be released on Christmas eve.

The ambassador was speaking during a visit to Sidon, where he met al-Janub Governor Halim Fayyad, who affirmed that the visit comes in an atmosphere of dark clouds because of the Israeli aggression, which is assuming special importance in view of the sympathy expressed for Lebanon and its people, particularly those in the south.

Iran's Khonsari Visits Sidon, Speaks on Hostages

LD1111210291 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Sidon, Nov. 11, IRNA—The latest developments in south Lebanon were discussed by religious and political officials of this southern Lebanese city and two visiting Iranian officials who are here with a consignment of relief aid.

The talks were held by Foreign Ministry Director General for Arab Affairs Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khonsari and Secretary General of the Red Crescent Society Seyfollah Vahid-Dastjerdi.

Local religious and political leaders informed the two Iranian officials on the ever increasing aggression of the Zionist regime against Lebanon and thanked the Islamic Republic for its full scale support for Lebanese strugglers.

Khonsari told reporters after the meeting that he was here to express solidarity with the Muslim people of Lebanon, on behalf of the leadership, officials and people of the Islamic Republic, for their steadfastness and resistance in defending their homeland.

He said the Iranian delegation has brought in a 80 ton consignment of foodstuff and medicines for the people of south Lebanon coming under Zionist air bombings.

Questioned about the recent explosion at the American University in Beirut, Khonsari said Iran's positions towards such acts especially against cultural centers is quite clear.

"The Zionist enemy is most probably behind the incident for some specific goals. I have heard from many people in Beirut that the hands of the Zionist regime of Israel is quite evident behind the blast," he said.

On the issue of Westerners detained in Lebanon on spying charges, Hoj. Khonsari said the whole issue including the case of the kidnapped Iranian diplomats as well as the Lebanese and Palestinian hostages in Israeli prisons, was being pursued by the U.N. chief and that Iran would help him in this respect.

He also said that information reaching Iran indicates that the Iranian diplomats kidnapped by the pro-Western Christian Phalangists in Beirut in 1982, were still alive and believed to be held hostage in Israel.

Iranian Envoy Details Concerns To Karami

NC0811144691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami today met Iranian Charge d'Affaires Homayun 'Alizadeh who later clarified that talks focused on Lebanese issues, especially the situation in the south.

'Alizadeh said he told Karami of the Iranian leadership's interest and concern about Israeli aggressions, pointing out that he affirmed Iranian official policy supporting and protecting Lebanese people in all areas.

He said he told the prime minister that Iranian aid to Lebanon has arrived, including 80 tonnes of foodstuffs, to be distributed through the Council of the South supervised by the Iranian Red Crescent.

Paper Reports Plan To Abduct Hostage-Takers

NC1211110491 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 7

[Text] Concerned Americans have paid $150,000 to a Lebanese group led by someone from al-Biqa' to abduct the hostage kidnappers and some planes.

The funds are being spent on gathering information about a number of people wanted by the law. Some kidnappers know about this information and are insisting on receiving guarantees for their personal safety before agreeing to any deal to release the foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

Buwayz on Madrid Conference, Bilateral Talks

NC1211121391

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0610 GMT on 11 November carries an approximately 45-minute recorded interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Tony Murad, Marcel Ghanim, and Theres Amin. The place and date of the interview are not given. Reception is fair.

Responding to a question about differences within the government over the Madrid peace conference and bilateral talks with Israel, Buwayz says: "In a country like Lebanon, where there is freedom and democracy, it is normal for there to be various opinions on how to face a historic and critical phase such as this. This issue should not be given undue attention because each of us has the same goal: to find the best possible way to recover the occupied south."

"To those who say Lebanon should not participate in the conference I say that this is a conference to discuss a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem. Lebanon, an Arab country, a veteran in its Arab role, in founding the Arab League, must not be absent from this conference. Lebanon borders Israel and is directly involved in any peace plan."

Buwayz says that because the conference is being held to solve the Palestinian problem and because many Palestinians live in Lebanon, it is only natural for Lebanon to participate, present its viewpoint, and support or oppose the outcome according to the results. He adds that if Lebanon does not participate in the conference it will be excluded from a resolution that will outline regional policy for decades to come.

Buwayz says Lebanon was guaranteed that UN Resolution 425 would remain a separate issue. He says that regardless of the conference's outcome, Lebanon would never lose its right to call for the implementation of the resolution.

Responding to a question on how the Israeli bombings in southern Lebanon during the Madrid conference will affect negotiations with Israel, the foreign minister says that what is happening in the south pressures the Lebanese negotiators. He adds that while this type of action has been going on in the south for many years, the bombing during the conference was different. "I said that what happens in the south will affect the progress of negotiations and the outcome of this conference, and we will not negotiate under pressure. On the night of the attack, I contacted Secretary Baker, who in turn contacted Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens. I believe the fighting stopped that same night or the next morning. The fighting, however, has resumed."

Buwayz adds that just as he asked the United States to pressure Israel, "I also asked Iran and several other parties that there be a scrupulous follow-up of what is taking place in the south so Israel will have no excuses to exploit this issue."

He notes, however, that he refused to halt the negotiations, because that would only provide an excuse to wreck the conference.

Responding to a question on Lebanon's independent position at the conference, Buwayz says: "Whether we like it or not, Lebanon's stand is linked to Arab solidarity. What makes this conference different from the others is that all the Arabs are participating, and this requires a certain degree of solidarity. This does not come from just one side; all parties have contributed. Before we went to the conference, we and other Arab parties agreed that if Lebanon does not win its rights they, too, will be committed not to accept the outcome; and if the Arab parties do not win their rights, Lebanon, too, will be committed not to accept.

On the venue of the next round of talks, the foreign minister says that Israel is trying to evade U.S. pressure and the Arabs are trying to hold the talks where the United States will be present. He says that he believes the talks will be held in Washington but that the date is not a major issue. Buwayz adds that there were no behind-the-scenes meetings between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations.

Responding to a question on Israel's assertions that the Lebanese Government would not be able to safeguard its border with Israel, Buwayz says: "As for Israel's attempts to convince the world that the Lebanese Government, state, or Army is unable to extend its authority to the south, I believe that when it entered the south the Lebanese Army was able to tackle the security situation and control about 7,000 Palestinians fighters in just under four or five days."

On charges that Israel is siphoning water from the south, the foreign minister says: "Some say Israel is taking water through reservoirs from the south to Israel. We asked Lebanese security authorities, the United Nations, and even the United States, to investigate. According to the findings of Lebanese security authorities there is no evidence that this is being done. UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] also conducted a thorough inspection and found no evidence."

Buwayz ends the interview with comments on his trip to Paris and his discussions with the French Government on the outcome of the Madrid conference.

Talks With PLO's 'Arafat, Qaddumi Reported

Al-Asad, 'Arafat Discuss Madrid

JN0811053991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Yesterday, President Hafiz al-Asad received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation, which comprised Yasir 'Abd-Rabb ih, Yasir 'Amr, 'Abdallah Hurani, Mahmud al-Khalidi, and Ahmad al-Shihabi. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also attended.

The conversation during the meeting revolved around the Middle East peace conference, the first phase of which was held in Madrid, and Arab efforts undertaken within the framework of action to achieve a comprehensive and just solution through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Qaddumi Arrival Statement

JN0811182891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, 8 Nov (SANA)—Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, and a delegation arrived in Damascus this evening.

Qaddumi was received at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state minister foreign affairs; the chief of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland Department; and the director of the PLO office in Damascus.

Speaking to SANA on his arrival, Qaddumi pointed out that his visit to Damascus to promote the fraternal ties between the PLO and Syria in the historic moments we are experiencing today, which mandate that everybody bolster cohesion and unity and solidarity with each other because the Arab nation is going to witness difficult and hard times. He added that Syria stands at the forefront of the progressive forces defending Arab rights.

Qaddumi added that Syria and the Palestinian revolution bear a great responsibility. This, he notes, makes us eager to promote the struggle relations between us and to coordinate at the highest levels because there are attempts to face Arab parties individually. This prompted us to respond earlier to Syria's call for holding a conference for the confrontation states, with the participation of representatives of the Arab Maghreb Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council, so as to coordinate on the peace process at the Madrid conference and afterward, and to hold consultations and assessments on the outcome of the Arab delegations' talks.

Qaddumi concluded: Coordinating stands among Syria, the PLO, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and other Arab brothers is necessary to create a unified Arab position and draw up future plans for serving pan-Arab objectives, achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and establishing the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

'Identical' Views Reported

JN0911153691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus—An official round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by Fatah Central Committee members Muhammad Ghunaym, Muhammad Jihad, and Nasr Yusuf.

The talks focused on assessing the first phase of the peace conference, and continued coordination and consultation among the concerned Arab parties on upcoming developments in the peace process, whether these developments concern bilateral or multilateral talks.

The views of the Syrian and Palestinian sides were identical on all the topics discussed.

Khaddam, Qaddumi Confer

JN0911190291 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] At 1830 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received a Fatah delegation headed by Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department chief and Fatah Central Committee member. The talks dealt with the latest developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the peace process, and the importance of coordination and cooperation among the Arab sides to ensure full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights.

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Attack Jalalabad 8 Nov

BK0911132491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mojahedin have launched fresh attack on the eastern part of the country. One report says the mojahedin rocketed the eastern city of Jalalabad from the southeast and launched ground attacks on the city from the west yesterday. There are also reports of fighting in Paktia Province, adjoining Jalalabad.

Mojahedin Kill 50 Soldiers in Herat Province

BK0911150091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 9 (AFP)—Afghan resistance killed 50 Kabul government soldiers in the western Herat Province, the rebel MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] agency said Saturday.

Quoting a wireless message from mojahedin commander Esma'il Khan, the agency said in operations conducted two days ago the resistance fighters also arrested 15 soldiers besides capturing five tanks.

The report put mojahedin losses at two dead and six injured as a result of aerial bombing and artillery fire by the government forces.

Unease in Government Over Soviet-Mojahedin Talks

BK0911023991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0114 GMT 9 Nov 91

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Nov 10 (AFP)—Uneasiness rippled through President Najibollah's government ahead of scheduled talks in Moscow Sunday between its Soviet mentors and the resistance, which has fought for 13 years to topple the regime in Afghanistan.

Najibollah's top Watan (Homeland) Party men huddled in closed-door meetings well past curfew late Friday and junior functionaries reported party debates underway ahead of the talks between an 11-member mojahedin team and Moscow.

Several party members had reportedly already been sent to both Europe and Moscow ahead of the talks, in which the regime has no part, to act as "sounding boards," Kabul-based diplomats said.

The Watan Party, whose power was cemented by the 1979 Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan, has however put up a nonchalant front, saying the coming talks augur well for the country as another "step towards peace."

Party sources, however, admitted to gnawing worries in the central command of the Watan, formerly known as the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, as the mojahedin have refused to negotiate directly with what it calls "a usurper."

"Everybody was in meetings last night," said a party member referring to the party leadership.

"The very attitude of the 11-member team is worrisome," he added, a reference to the hardline approach of the delegation which announced several preconditions before their departure for Moscow Friday.

The team, led by moderate resistance leader Borhanoddin Rabbani, will reach the Soviet Union after a stopover in Jiddah in the first such visit to the Soviet Union by the mojahedin since it took up arms against Moscow in 1979.

The war is still continuing between the Moscow-installed government and the rebels despite the Soviet troop withdrawal under a United Nations plan in 1989.

Three powerful mojahedin hardliners, Golbuddin Hekmatyar, 'Abdul Rasol Sayyaf and Yunes Khales have spurned the Soviet invitation to attend the talks, saying they did not recognise Moscow as a negotiator despite the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union.

"We only hope the Soviet Union has some concrete proposals to interest the rebels in peace... we hope Moscow will not make any drastic decision," said another party member speaking on condition of anonymity.

Rabbani, who calls Najibollah's government a "puppet," has ruled out discussions on the composition of a transitional government in Kabul while in Moscow.

Some diplomatic sources here say they expect the rebels to push for war damage compensation and that negotiations could collapse on the issue.

Security was beefed up in Kabul Friday and soldiers carried shoulder-fired rockets at street junctions, as residents openly wondered whether the talks could lead to withdrawal of Soviet support for Najibollah to expedite the installation of a transitional government.

The transition government proposal was contained in a UN blueprint released in May designed to end the war, which has left more than one million dead and driven another five million out of the country as refugees.

Hours after the resistance left the Pakistan border city of Peshawar for Moscow, a dissident group announced Friday it would hold the first anti-government rally here November 11 to protest what it called the "illegitimate regime" of Najibollah.

"We are challenging the government to stop us. It is our non-violent resistance against the illegitimate regime which is clinging to power," said Afghan Center for

Democracy leader Zia Khan Nasri, adding that the Watan's days were numbered.

The display of open political defiance came amid reports of secret merger plans among smaller parties in Afghanistan where the Watan Party has tolerated little free political activity since it came into existence.

Western diplomats also reported increased levels of quiet contacts between moderate resistance groups and Watan partymen.

"The party base has dissolved and now it is upset because the Moscow-mojahedin talks have been superimposed on Kabul's plans for an intra-Afghan dialogue," said one senior diplomat.

Soviet diplomats here dismissed speculation that the Moscow meeting would erode Kabul's position in any future peace negotiations, adding that Moscow could not and would not abandon Najibollah or his 155,000 member party.

The two had to be an integral part of the war-torn country's future system of governance, they said.

Overtly, however, there was little sign of the unease, with state-owned television reporting the event and the boycott of the talks by the three mojahedin hardliners without comment.

"We are principally pro-talks and hope they will bring peace in Afghanistan," said 'Abdullah Sadan, president of the Union of Journalists, a second-rung Watan organ.

The chief of the neutral Afghan Salvation Society, Mohammad Asghar, welcomed the scheduled meeting as "fruitful" but warned that the rebels' demand for the regime's ouster had to be shelved until the restoration of peace.

"We hope the talks are based on the UN peace plan and we think (that if so) it would be a success in bringing peace to Afghanistan," said a supporter of former Afghan monarch Zaher Shah, now living in exile in Rome and often mentioned as a possible leader of an interim government.

Supporters Seek Ex-King's Return to Kabul

BK1111115091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1046 GMT 10 Nov 91

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Nov 11 (AFP)—Followers of Afghanistan's deposed monarch have ended 13 years of political hibernation to agitate for his return to the war-ravaged nation he left nearly two decades ago.

Few but vocal, former royal advisors and subjects have surfaced here in a campaign to isolate President Najibollah's regime and press for the return of former king Mohammad Zaher Shah from exile to head a neutral government.

The United Nations in May suggested a ceasefire, formation of a transitional government and then elections to end the 13-year-old conflict. His supporters say the former king is the only choice to head a temporary administration.

Funds appear to be no problem for some of the emerging royal supporters in Kabul.

Quieter campaigners for Zaher Shah, deposed by cousin Mohammad Daud in 1973, have been pushed aside by newcomers who say "old warhorses" such as the National Salvation Society need a shot in the arm in their pro-king battle.

The 77-year-old monarch, who last week survived an assassination attempt in his house outside Rome, has fanned his followers's enthusiasm by repeating his desire to return to Afghanistan, which he ruled for 40 years.

"We want the return of Zaher Shah, but not the restoration of monarchy in Afghanistan, and he, as an elderly statesman, (should) guide the nation after the ouster of this illegitimate, KGB government of Najibollah," said Zia Khan Nasri, a U.S. citizen of Afghan origin who returned 10 days ago.

"My goal is to knock out the Najibollah regime and reinstate the king as our national leader," said Nasri, a politician-turned- businessman who was arrested in Pakistan and Iran during previous campaigns.

Sayyed Zaher Shah, the former king's self-styled spokesman here and a former royalist senator, told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] that he thought Najibollah should immediately step down and invite the former monarch to take command of a temporary government.

"The king is the only answer to the U.N. peace plan and he fits in as a head of a transitional government until elections," he said.

Resistance factions fighting to topple the Soviet-backed government have reacted positively but cautiously to the U.N. plan, which calls for the formation of a transitional government to steer Afghanistan into elections.

But they are deeply divided on the issue of the king's possible return.

"We thirst for peace. We want these KGB-trained Soviet slaves to quit," said Walid, the firebrand son of Zaher Shah's former commander of the Royal Guards, Wahid Umar Nurzay.

Walid has begun distributing pro-king pamphlets in Kabul University and middle class districts urging people to take to the streets against the regime.

The Moscow-installed government, which permitted no such dissidence in the past, has not reacted to the agitation in line with its reformist policies.

Najibollah restored to Zaher Shah two months ago the citizenship stripped from him at the time of the bloody communist takeover in 1978.

"They (the royalists) are appearing like locusts, everywhere, and they seem to have enough financial fuel," said an East European diplomat.

Zaher Shah and his representatives have been courted by Moscow and Washington since the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989, and many diplomats see their motives as trying to prevent the country swinging towards Islamic fundamentalism.

"Afghanistan needs the cooperation of the U.N. and the West and Zaher Shah alone can provide the answer," said in an interview royalist ex-Senator Sarwar Akbari, leader of Afghan refugees in Turkey.

The king's "intellectual advisor," Rabbani Rasuli, said the royalists felt the time was ripe for the campaign.

"The time is more feasible now," Rasuli said, in apparent reference to stepped-up peace moves, adding that king-fever was spreading like an epidemic among people who wanted the curtain to drop on the Najibollah regime.

Flamboyant Nasri, a Harvard graduate who holds an MIT doctorate in business, plans a protest rally Wednesday in Kabul and has asked shopkeepers to down their shutters.

He says he has requested Soviet ambassador Boris Pastukhov, whom he calls the "viceroy of Afghanistan," to give safe passage to the protestors.

His cars bear no number plates, but the "Free Afghanistan" legend.

"Shoot me, jail me or deport me," said Nasri in one of two 80-dollar-a-day suites he has hired in Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel, turning them into his campaign headquarters.

Nasri, Akbari and Rasuli have formed what they call the Afghan Centre of Democracy, almost in line with a second pro-king forum called the Movement for Unity, Freedom and Democracy in Afghanistan.

"Every group has its own role to play in the coming days of peace, but we only hope their campaigns are more sober," said a senior member of the Salvation Society, the oldest forum of Kabul royalists.

Pakistan

President Rules Out National Government

BK1011111491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said there is no apparent reason for the formation of a national government when an elected government enjoying majority in parliament is already in office. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said those who demand a new government should be asked to explain the need and rationale of a national government in the present situation. Replying to a question, he dispelled the impression that the situation in the country is uncertain, saying there is no cause for such an impression. The president pointed out that the government had called a session of the National Assembly in which a number of bills were passed, while the upper house is still in session. He posed a question that in view of this, what is meant by uncertain situation?

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has criticized the activities of the opposition leaders and said they do not want to see the ship of democracy sailing smoothly, country achieving stability, and the nation growing stronger. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said these are the people who had been rejected by the masses. As such their politics is based on negative attitude revolving around their own personal end. He assured that inshah Allah [God willing], these people will not succeed in their designs. Replying to a question, he said the opposition had no right to demand his resignation as he had been elected to the office of the prime minister by the people of Pakistan. He advised the opposition to personally weigh their (?words) before making such unreasonable demands.

Jamiyat-i-Islami Party To Quit Government Alliance

BK0811160091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] In Pakistan, a partner of the ruling coalition, Jamiyat-i-Islami, has decided to opt out of the alliance, posing a threat to the Nawaz Sharif government. An agency report quoting the party chief, Qazi Hussain, today said the party's central executive has taken the decision to quit the government. Jamiyat-i-Islami is the second biggest partner of the ruling Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [Islamic Democratic Alliance].

Minister Notes Nuclear Program's Peaceful Nature

BK1011162491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chaudhary Amir Hussain has reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes. He was speaking on the admissibility of two identical privilege motions for debate in the Senate which Tariq Chaudhary and Akhundzada Bahrawar Sayeed wanted to move. The motions related to the statement by Benazir Bhutto to a foreign correspondent in which she had said that Pakistan had been engaged in nuclear weapons development for the last five years [as heard] and which NAWAI WAQT had published this statement in early September.

The parliamentary affairs minister clarified that Pakistan neither desires to manufacture nuclear weapons nor

has any such program. Opposing the motions on technical grounds, he said this matter cannot be raised in the Senate because it is concerned with a member of the National Assembly. The movers in their speeches said that some powers want to punish us in this connection and that Benazir Bhutto is providing them with all such pretexts. They said that as a former prime minister she had violated her oath not to reveal official secrets and by making such statements she had violated the nation's faith. [passage omitted]

The Senate chairman, while reserving his verdict on the motions, directed all sides to present their arguments on the admissibility of the motions. After statements by the concerned ministers, the movers Tariq Chaudhary and Akhundzada Baharwar Sayeed did not press their motions. [passage omitted]

Minister Reminds India of UN Kashmir Resolutions

BK1011154491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistan has again told India that Kashmir is the basic issue between the two countries and that its solution in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions is imperative for the normalization of bilateral ties. This was stated by Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, while commenting on the Indian foreign affairs minister's statement during a meeting with the European parliamentary delegation members. The Indian foreign affairs minister is reported to have said that there is no question of raising the Jammu and Kashmir issue again because the Simla agreement took precedence over the UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo said that the UN resolutions had clearly recognized the status of Jammu and Kashmir as disputable and that this was accepted by both Pakistan and India. The minister of state for foreign affairs referred to the views expressed by the UN secretary general's representative last April that the UN resolutions on Kashmir were still applicable regardless of the time elapsed since their adoption.

As for the Simla agreement, the minister of state said that even under it India and Pakistan are commited to find a final solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute through a dialogue. He reiterated that the prime ministers, foreign ministers, and foreign secretaries had exchanged views on the issue on various occasions.

Answering a question, the minister of state said that Pakistan will continue moral and political support of the Kashmiri people, who have launched a movement for their right of self-determination.

Sharif Advocates Pressure on India

BK1111043091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has urged the international community, especially Muslims, to bring pressue on India to end its atrocious activities in occupied Kashmir and to agree to a just solution to the issue in consonance with the aspirations of the Kashmiris. He was speaking at a dinner in Islamabad last night which he hosted in honor of Qatari Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani. The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's determination to continue its wholehearted role in the efforts of the Muslim community to face the common challenges of the Gulf, the Middle East, Palestine, Afghanistan, and Kashmir. He said that Pakistan views with respect the bold decision taken by the Arab and Palestinian leaders to hold talks to work for a just solution to the issue. Expressing his confidence in the talks, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that it reflects once again the consensus on peace, stability, and progress on regional and global issues.

The prime minister also said that this government's foremost priority is to take the fruits of socioeconomic progress to the common people and to provide them with social justice and equal opportunities. He said a comprehensive development strategy has been devised for privatization, the relaxation of regulations, and independent commercial activities, and that we expect that investors from Qatar will cooperate with us to achieve mutual benefits.

In his speech, Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani said that during the past few years Pakistani-Qatari relations have been progressing and there has been increased cooperation in various sectors. He lauded Pakistan's role in promoting cooperation and solidarity among Muslim people and supporting the just cause of the Palestinians. He stated that Pakistan's support is based on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, especially toward honoring their right of self-determination and the formation of Palestinian state. He expressed the hope that the Middle East peace conference will help in strengthening grounds for peace and the UN resolutions on this issue.

Sharif Calls for Atmosphere of Regional Trust

BK0911154691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has emphasized the need for collective efforts by the South Asian countries to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust and to do away with the trend of tension and military buildup in the region. In an interview with a leading Sri Lankan daily, THE ISLAND of Colombo, published today, the prime minister said that a massive program of militarization in one country increases the sense of insecurity among smaller neighboring countries. These tendencies need to be stopped to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, tranquillity, and development. Sharif said that Pakistan does not desire to become a regional power and that it wants to establish cordial and cooperative relations with all neighboring countries on the basis of sovereign equality. After the

end of superpower rivalry in the Indian Ocean, however, no other country should try to establish its hegemony in the region.

Answering a question about bilateral problems among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] member countries, the prime minister said that as long as these problems exist SAARC cannot utilize its capacity fully. He said the real aim of the SAARC is not to start new regional cooperation but rather to assist in the efforts to expand cooperation. The resolution of bilateral disputes will go a long way in making the SAARC an effective organization, the prime minister added.

Iranian Education Minister Arrives for Talks

Meets With Counterpart

LD1111113791 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 11 Mov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 11, IRNA—Promotion of Tehran-Islamabad cultural ties was discussed in a meeting here between visiting Iranian Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mostafa Mo'in-Najafabadi and Pakistani Minister of Education Syed Fakhr Imam Monday. The two sides also reviewed exchange of university professors, researchers and students and conducting joint research projects. Mo'in-Najafabadi and Imam expressed hope that the current visit by the Iranian delegation will be a prelude to a major change in Iran-Islamabad cultural relations. The Iranian minister and his entourage arrived here Sunday to attend the 5th session of the standing committee for scientific and technical cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to open today.

Mo'in-Najafabadi exchanged views with Pakistani Minister of Science and Technology Elahi Bux Sumroo on Sunday.

Conveys Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message

LD1211080191 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 12, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mostafa Mo'in-Najafabadi conveyed verbal message of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his Pakistani counterpart Ghulam Ishaq Khan Monday.

Mo'in-Najafabadi who arrived here Sunday to attend the 5th session of the standing committee for scientific and technical cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) voiced Iran's readiness to establish scientific and technological cooperate with Islamic countries, Pakistan in particular.

Ishaq Khan called for greater cultural, scientific and research cooperation among Islamic countries including exchange of researchers, university professors and students.

Referring to traditional friendly Tehran-Islamabad ties, Ishaq Khan called for further promotion of scientific, cultural and technological cooperation.

Mo'in-Najafabadi also presented Iran's aid to the scientific and technical committee of the OIC to Ishaq Khan who chairs the committee.

Sharif Welcomes Mediation Offer

BK1211114891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said Pakistan would welcome and cooperate with any proposal from any country willing to play a role in the resolution of Kashmir issue. He was asked by newsmen in Islamabad today to comment on Iranian president's offer for mediation to resolve the outstanding problems between Pakistan and India. The prime minister said Pakistan values the Iranian support to it on the Kashmir issue. He described the Iranian stand on Kashmir as courageous and principled.

He replied in negative when asked if Pakistan had helped Iran in the construction of any nuclear reactor.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said the judicial commission set up by him to probe opposition's allegations against his government in the cooperatives crisis would soon give its findings. The nation would then judge and give its verdict against those who are making baseless and wild allegations.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said his hands are clean and pointed out that he had on his own presented himself for accountability so that the truth is known [words indistinct]. He said he had done nothing wrong and would not accept any aspersion cast on his government. He said it is these very people who plundered public money during their rule and the references against them are now before courts of law. He said those who published the so-called *Plunder of Pakistan* were responsible for the surrender of Pakistan and also indulged in plunder of people's money.

Sri Lanka

Tigers Set Basis for New Peace Talks

BK1011072891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0715 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Colombo, Nov 10 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas have laid down a basis to resume fresh peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government just two weeks after ruling out conciliatory moves, press reports here said Sunday.

The state-run SUNDAY OBSERVER said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had laid down a "basis for negotiations" in response to mediation efforts by Tourism Minister S. Thondaman, who is a key Tamil figure.

Thondaman was quoted as saying that the latest letter from the LTTE was "encouraging" compared with previous replies by the Tigers. He was optimistic that talks between Colombo and the rebels could be resumed.

Thondaman would not say what the LTTE had proposed but a guerrilla leader had urged that a peaceful climate must prevail and called for an end to all military and economic blockades against them before negotiations could start, THE OBSERVER said.

The newspaper quoted LTTE deputy leader Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah as saying in a press statement that the Tigers were prepared to consider any views that would fulfil the political aspirations of Sri Lanka's minority Tamils.

THE OBSERVER said the LTTE's proposals were surprising because two weeks ago its political secretary Yogaratnam Yogi had ruled out talks saying it would be suicidal at this stage of the war with security forces.

Fourteen months of peace talks between Colombo and the guerrillas broke down in June last year, leading to renewed fighting in the northeast where the LTTE is seeking to set up a separate state for the Tamils.

The LTTE has rejected previous offers by Colombo for the resumption of the talks, describing them as containing rigid preconditions, main among them being the laying down of arms by the guerrillas.

Thousands of people have died during the LTTE's 19-year-old separatist campaign.

President Thanks SAARC States for Attending Talks

BK1011112291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa has conveyed his deep personal appreciation and that of the government and the people of Sri Lanka to the prime minister of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia; President of the Republic of Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, and the Pakistani prime minister, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, for paying state visits to Sri Lanka in spite of the cancellation of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit at the eleventh hour.

In a special message sent to the three leaders, the Sri Lankan president points out that their visits to Sri Lanka were mutually beneficial to Sri Lanka and the three SAARC nations. He states that bilateral discussions were not only meaningful but also fruitful. The president expressed the confidence that the cooperation and collaboration between these countries, especially in the fields of economic development, trade, education, culture, and poverty alleviation, will be accelerated as a result of the visits of the three leaders. He also assured that all necessary actions will be taken to translate the decisions taken at the meeting into action. The president noted that the visits of the three leaders to Sri Lanka have strengthened the long-standing ties of friendship and solidarity among these countries.

In a letter sent to the president of the Maldives, President Premadasa noted that as a small country with small population, the Maldives will naturally be concerned about her security. Sri Lanka is also not such a big country, though with a big population. The president says although Sri Lanka is a small country, he would like to assure that Sri Lankans are [word indistinct] to assist the Maldives through difficult times. They are of the firm belief that peaceful coexistence emanates from caring and sharing as well as treating each other with respect, dignity, and equality. The president says that our individual strength will be further enhanced not by weakening the weak, but by strengthening the weak.

President Holds Talks With Pakistani Official

BK1011114891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, had talks with President Ranasinghe Premadasa on a wide range of bilateral issues and the matters of mutual interest. The two leaders agreed that they needed to take measures to enhance trade between their countries. They observed that if the necessary steps were taken, they could meet each other's requirements, which would reduce their dependence on outside resources.

They agreed that their joint economic commissions required political guidance if they were to be effective. The two leaders agreed to mandate their ministers dealing with finance and foreign affairs to work out an early program of practical bilateral economic cooperation. They also discussed developments in SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and agreed that rules relating to SAARC meetings needed to be reviewed.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa noted that Pakistan had a highly developed dairy farming industry as well as agriculture and that Sri Lanka could benefit by drawing upon Pakistan's experience. He felt that poverty could be largely eliminated in rural areas by people taking to dairy farming. Sri Lanka's greatest asset was the pool of trainable people. The president observed that the South Asian region with one-fifth of the world's population constituted an enormous market for commodities produced in the region.

The prime minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, has sent a special message to the Sri Lankan president while leaving the island's air space. In his message, the Pakistani prime minister states that he was impressed by President Ranasinghe Premadasa's insight into international affairs and his commitment to the welfare of Sri Lankans. He expressed the confidence that talks he had

with the Sri Lankan president will help to further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries. He reiterated Pakistan's unstinting support to the Sri Lankan president and the government for all endeavors aimed at convening the postponed sixth SAARC summit at an early date in Colombo. The Pakistani prime minister left the island yesterday after his successful state visit to Sri Lanka.